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Printed for the use of the Foreign Office. *February* 1900.

CONFIDENTIAL.

(7236.)

PART CLXXXIII.

FURTHER CORRESPONDENCE

RESPECTING THE

AFFAIRS

OF

SOUTH-EASTERN EUROPE.

February 1898.

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Further Correspondence respecting the Affairs of South-Eastern Europe.

PART CLXXXIII.

No. 1.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 14.)

Sophia, January 28, 1898.

My Lord,

WITH reference to Mr. Findlay's despatch No. 157 of the 4th August last, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, reporting the condemnation to death of the murderers of Anna Simon by the Court of Appeal.

The Bulgarian public conscience does not appear to be disturbed by the fact that the verdict of a jury has been set aside, and a capital sentence pronounced by a Tribunal sitting without a jury.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 1.

Vice-Consul Wratislaw to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 7.)

Philippopoli, January 26, 1898.

Sir,

WITH reference to my despatch to Mr. Findlay No. 46 of the 29th July, 1897, I have the honour to report that the Court of Cassation having decided that, under the provisions of the new Code of Criminal Procedure, the appeal of the Procureur against the decision of the Departmental Court condemning Boitcheff and Novelitch to imprisonment for life for the murder of Anna Simon should be allowed, the Philippopoli Court of Appeal yesterday condemned both of the accused men to death.

There can be little doubt that the perpetrators of so terrible a crime deserve the severest penalty of the law, but the effect of this decision is to render absolutely ineffectual the safeguards which the so-called trial by jury is supposed to afford. Judges throughout Bulgaria are, with the rarest exceptions, entirely subservient to the Government of the day, and it is now held by the Court of Cassation that disagreement between the jury as a whole and the Judges at First Instance is disagreement within the meaning of the Code, which allows appeal unless the verdict is given unanimously, and the case is then practically reheard before a Court composed entirely of Judges. In the Anna Simon case the jury (or "assessors") allowed the accused the benefit of "extenuating circumstances," while the Judges did not, and the Court of Appeal has now completely ignored the verdict of the jury.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 2.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 15.)
My Lord, *Sophia, January* 29, 1898.

THE first of the "emigrant" officers about whose rehabilitation negotiations have so long been in progress between St. Petersburgh and Sophia, Lieutenant-Colonel Vazoff, brother of the Minister of Public Instruction, has returned, and has been appointed a Lieutenant-Colonel on the staff, with special duties at the War Office.

Four officers of the rank of Captains, who returned some time ago under the Amnesty Law without stipulating for special treatment, were included in the New Year's promotions to the rank of Major.

The discontent of the army is deep, but has not yet been openly expressed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 3.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 1.)

(No. 23.)
My Lord, *Vienna, January* 30, 1898.

BOTH the "Fremdenblatt" and the "Politische Correspondenz" give prominence to reports from Servia as to the interest with which the candidature of Prince George of Greece is watched in influential circles at Belgrade. The Servian press has hitherto shown much reserve in treating of this question, but it is none the less felt that the appointment of the Greek Prince would undoubtedly constitute a sort of union with Greece, and thereby impair the equilibrium in the Balkanic Peninsula as settled by the Treaty of Berlin. This would clearly be damaging to the Servian nationality, and some claim for compensation on the part of the Servians might be expected to follow.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 4.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 24.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1898.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 44 of the 20th ultimo, inclosing the draft of a joint note to be addressed by Her Majesty's Embassy and those of France and Russia to the Greek Legation at Constantinople, urging the reappointment, as soon as possible, of Greek Representatives in the Ottoman Empire.

The terms of this note are approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 5.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir H Rumbold.

(No. 7. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1898.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 13, Confidential, of the 21st ultimo, reporting a conversation with Count Goluchowski with regard to King Milan, in the course of which his Excellency referred to a statement, reported

as emanating from Her Majesty's Chargé d'Affaires at Belgrade, to the effect that Austria-Hungary had just concluded a military Convention with Servia.

The only reference to this subject which has reached me from Mr. Macdonald is contained in the last paragraph of the despatch of which a copy is inclosed.*

Your Excellency will observe that Mr. Macdonald states that certain Radicals were afraid that a new secret Convention had recently been concluded between Servia and Austria-Hungary, but that this fear did not seem to be justified from anything which he could learn from his foreign colleagues.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 6.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 13.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 2, 1898.

THE Italian Ambassador recently called and stated that his Government were ready to accept any solution of the question of the Governship of Crete which should receive the support of all the Powers; but that they could not accept the responsibility of the appointment of an Ottoman Governor. They were anxious to learn the views of Her Majesty's Government on this latter point, which they thought were in accord with their own.

General Ferrero was to-day informed that Her Majesty's Government agreed in the view of the Italian Government, but that they would support the candidature of Prince George of Greece so long as the Russian Government continued to do so.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 7.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 3.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1898.

I WAS authorized by Count Mouravieff to-day to inform your Lordship that he has not changed his opinion as to Prince George being the only possible candidate for the Governorship of Crete, and that he thinks the Sultan will be forced to accept him in order to avoid annexation.

His Excellency told me he had spoken in this sense to the Turkish Ambassador, and that he had informed him in unmistakable language that under no circumstances would the dispatch of Turkish troops to Crete be permitted. He requested the Ambassador to communicate to the Sultan what he had said.

I observed that some settlement ought to be arrived at without delay, in order to terminate the present foolish deadlock with its risk of disturbances and massacre, and asked as a personal question how it would be if Prince George were now to be elected by the Assembly and he were to go to Crete and assume office.

His Excellency replied that such a course would meet with strong opposition on the part of Germany; the Emperor would never hear of such a thing, he would regard it as a plébiscite which could never receive the sanction of the Berlin Cabinet so long as Alsace and Lorraine remained under the German flag.

I observed that when a similar course had been adopted in the case of Eastern Roumelia, it had met with the entire approval of the Russian Government. His Excellency hesitated, and then replied that the question might perhaps be solved in this manner, but that it would be necessary to try other means first.

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* See Part CLXXXII, No. 113.

No. 8.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 3.)

(No. 20.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, February* 2, 1898.

IN the course of my conversation to-day with Count Mouravieff, I touched on a report I had noticed in the newspapers to the effect that permission for the passage of Russian war-ships through the Straits had been obtained from the Sultan.

His Excellency characterized the report as ludicrous and absolutely devoid of foundation.

No. 9.

Sir C. Scott to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 4.)

(No. 5.)
My Lord, *Copenhagen, February* 2, 1898.

THE official "Berlingske Tidende" of last night contains the following statement with regard to a report in the French press attributing to Her Majesty the Queen of Denmark the initiative of the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the post of Governor of Crete:—

"'Le Temps' pretends to have received a letter from Copenhagen, asserting that Prince George's candidature for the Governorship of Crete is due to the initiative of Her Majesty the Queen, who is understood to have written to the Dowager Empress of Russia and the Princess of Wales on the subject.

"As the report from 'Le Temps' has been reproduced in other French, English, and German papers, we have sought information as to its trustworthiness, and are now enabled to declare that it is entirely without any foundation."

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. SCOTT.

No. 10.

Mr. Hallward to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 3.)
My Lord, *Cettinjé, January* 30, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 2, Very Confidential, of the 14th instant respecting the candidature of M. Bojo Petrovitch for the post of Crete, I have the honour to report that in yesterday's official Gazette the following telegraphic correspondence was published between M. Sfakianaki, President of the Cretan Assembly, and the Prince of Montenegro:—

"*Canea, January* 24.

"With reference to the candidature of the Voivode Petrovitch, your Highness has manifested noble and magnanimous sentiments towards the Cretans, which have excited lively emotion among us. The struggles formerly borne in the Black Mountains (Montenegro) have always aroused a sympathetic echo in the White Mountains (Crete), and we are happy to see that sympathy reciprocated to-day, and to express to your Highness the deep gratitude of the Cretan people."

The Prince's reply was as follows:—

"I thank the Cretan National Assembly for having correctly appreciated the sentiments which guided me respecting the candidature of Petrovitch, my cousin. I hope for a speedy return of happy days for your beautiful island."

The above telegrams are followed by an article recommending the candidature of Prince George of Greece.

It is evident that, whatever may be His Highness' motives, he is quite determined

to maintain his opposition to the candidature of M. Bojo, even though it may be supported by the Russian Government and approved by the other Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 11.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 38. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 4, 1898, 11·59 P.M.

THE Russian Ambassador is informed, as I hear from St. Petersburgh, that it has been intimated to Greece that the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Russia are ready to guarantee the war indemnity loan, and that in view of this important decision, attention must now be concentrated on the successful conclusion of the loan, in order that Thessaly may be evacuated. The demand of Russia for the immediate nomination of a Governor for Crete will therefore be postponed for the time being. The greatest prudence is necessary, in view of the opposition of Germany and of the Sultan to accept Prince George. The Greek Government will therefore be told, by the Russian Minister at Athens, that it must quietly await events, in full confidence that Russia will not renounce the aim that she has set herself. Her objects will be the more easily attained by giving the Sultan time to convince himself of the impossibility of finding another issue from existing difficulties, and by avoiding action which would embitter the relations between Russia and Turkey. Perfect tranquillity is required for this purpose, both in Greece and Crete, and the Russian Consul at Canea has accordingly been instructed to keep the Cretan Assembly quiet, and to prevent it from making any movement before Thessaly is evacuated, and from thus causing embarrassment to the Russian Government.

I have telegraphed the above to Sir E. Egerton.

No. 12.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 14. Confidential.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Athens, February* 5, 1898.

I HAVE just received Sir P. Currie's telegram No. 38 to your Lordship.

The Russian Minister, a few days ago, confidentially informed only the King and the Prime Minister—not the Greek Government—of the project of guarantee by the three Powers.

I understood at the time that neither had spoken even to the Finance Minister on the subject.

As for Prince George's candidature for Crete, the King has apparently always considered that time would be required for its realization.

No. 13.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 23.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, February* 5, 1898.

I HEAR from a confidential source that orders have been sent to put four ships of the Black Sea fleet in commission for China.

See my telegram No. 20 of the 2nd February.

No. 14.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 5.)

(No. 39.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 5, 1898, 5·30 P.M.

ALLEGED disturbances in Northern Macedonia: my despatch No. 68 of the 3rd instant.

The Porte deny the facts as represented by M. Marcoff, the Bulgarian Agent. They state that the latter has presented no Memorandum, and that he has merely communicated a Petition from the inhabitants of Kochana. I have urged them to make further inquiry.

Meanwhile, I learn privately that the Sultan is preparing for any emergency that may arise, and that he intends to send 100 battalions by degrees to the Bulgarian frontier.

I have telegraphed the above to Her Majesty's Agent at Sophia.

No. 15.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Athens, January* 29, 1898.

YESTERDAY the newly-appointed Turkish Minister, Rifaat Bey, arrived in Athens.

The Greek Government paid him the attention of sending a man-of-war boat to meet and bring him ashore.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 16.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 13.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 1, 1898.

A NEUSATZ newspaper called "Nashe Doba" has recently published a letter dated "Vienna the 18th January," in which a correspondent professes to have discovered that negotiations are proceeding between Russia and Austria-Hungary for the establishment of an autonomous administration in Macedonia.

The following is a resumé of the contents of the letter:—

"On the 8th (20th) of last March a secret Treaty was signed between Turkey and Bulgaria by which the latter country pledged itself to maintain strict neutrality throughout the Turco-Greek war in return for three new Bishoprics at Strumitsa, Monastir, and Dibre. The Porte consented to introduce reforms into the whole of Macedonia as soon as the war was over, the chief of these reforms being the equalization of the Bulgarian and Turkish languages. Turkey was induced to agree to these terms by the representation of the Bulgarian Government that Servia's policy would be identical with theirs, and that if Bulgaria refrained from declaring war Servia would do the same.

"The Sultan's Iradé for the three Bishoprics was therefore placed in the hands of the Exarch on the 20th March, with the understanding that the Berats would not be issued until the conclusion of the war, for fear of arousing excitement amongst the Greek and Servian populations in the Peninsula. Russian diplomacy at Constantinople supported Bulgaria in order to prevent the Eastern question from breaking out along the entire line, and to counteract the plans of England who had provoked the Greco-Turkish war.

"The three Bishoprics of Strumitsa, Monastir, and Dibre are the three last stages which Bulgaria needed to occupy in order to assure her religious ascendancy in Macedonia, and the Porte has pledged itself that the reforms which are to complete her political and civil supremacy in the province shall be introduced as soon as the question of Crete is settled.

"Seeing that the settlement of the Cretan difficulty is drawing near, and that the time is not far distant when the Ambassadors at Constantinople will be free to take in hand the question of Macedonian reform, Russia has proposed to Count Goluchowski to create an autonomous Macedonia under the suzerainty of the Porte, to introduce civil equality amongst the Christian and Mahommedan populations of the province and to proclaim the equality of the Turkish and Bulgarian languages throughout the whole of Macedonia. A Christian nominee of the Great Powers is to be appointed Governor by the Porte.

"Austria has replied to the Russian proposal by pointing out that the creation of an autonomous province embracing the whole of Macedonia would not, in her opinion, produce the result of general pacification that is aimed at. To create an autonomous Macedonia of a Bulgarian character, as was done with Eastern Roumelia, must provoke incessant internal and foreign disturbances, and is contrary to the policy agreed upon between Austria and Russia, which is, to foster peace, allay all discontent, and put an end to injustice in the Balkan Peninsula. Austria is convinced that the present situation cannot last, and that the different nationalities in Macedonia must be granted the same liberty for person and property as is enjoyed by all other European peoples. Austria, however, does not look upon Macedonia as a single province. The Vilayets of Kossovo, Monastir, and Salonica are all included under that name. The former is an altogether Servian Province, as are also the northern parts of the Saloniça and Monastir Vilayets.

"Austria therefore suggests that two vilayets should be created out of Macedonia: the one to be called the Vilayet of Old Servia or Kossova, to include the present Vilayet of Kossovo and the northern districts of Salonica and Monastir, and the other to be called Western Roumelia, to include the remaining portions of the last-named vilayets. The Servian element would preponderate in the first, and the Bulgarian in the second. The frontiers of the two vilayets are to be defined by a special European Commission, and Salonica is to be declared a free port under the protection of the Great Powers. The ex-King Milan, who has lately visited Vienna, not only had an audience of the Emperor, but held long conferences with Count Goluchowski at which this question was discussed. Servia allowed the chance of the Turco-Greek war to pass by, and must now beware of further mistakes. The situation is clear, and speaks for itself."

The above remarkable correspondence has been reproduced in various Servian newspapers, and, amongst others, in the semi-official organ of the Government, where it was printed *in extenso* but without comment. The "Nashe Doba," in which it originally appeared, is published at Neusatz, a town that is looked upon as being the intellectual centre of Servism in Hungary. This paper is reported to be the property of a certain M. Gjourkovitch, an Hungarian Delegate, and is said to be occasionally used as an unofficial organ for statements of Imperial policy. The Opposition assert that the letter of the 18th January, although dated from Vienna, was in reality composed at Belgrade and taken to Neusatz for publication by a certain Jota Gruitch, a correspondent of the "Nashe Doba."

The comments of the Servian press on this correspondence are various, but all newspapers agree in accepting the supposed disclosures as a proof, which was scarcely required, of Bulgarian perfidy and hatred towards this country. The "Odjek," however, which is the organ of the Radical party and an advocate of the Servo-Bulgarian Union, views the correspondence with alarm and sees in it an attempt on the part of Austria-Hungary to exasperate Servia against Bulgaria, as she did with such fatal results when, in 1885, she drove this country to Slivnitsa in revenge for the union of Eastern Roumelia with Bulgaria.

The "Zastava," which claims attention as being the organ of ex-Regent Ristitch, the oldest and most experienced of Servian statesmen, accepts the account of the Secret Treaty between Turkey and Bulgaria as true, and pronounces its detestation of Bulgarian treachery, but declines to believe that Russia would ally herself with vassal Bulgaria in order to settle a question that the Treaty of Berlin has made eminently European.

My present information does not permit me to express an opinion as to the truth or otherwise of the pretended disclosures in the "Nashe Doba," but I may perhaps mention to your Lordship that the German Minister, whom I saw for a few moments before his departure on a short leave of absence, alluded to the correspondence as being of "momentous importance." Baron Waecker Gotter is on very intimate terms with the Palace, and has been invited to frequent recent audiences by both Kings. His remarks may, therefore, have been an echo of Royal opinion. I learn from another

source that King Alexander is deeply impressed with the gravity of the situation in Macedonia, and fears that the relations between Russia and Bulgaria are of so close and friendly a character that the latter only requires to make a slight additional effort to obtain concessions in that province which will be for ever fatal to what are regarded as the most vital interests of Servia. The Russian Chargé d'Affaires here does not hesitate to say that his Government views the presence of ex-King Milan at Belgrade with great disfavour, and has instructed him to press for the repayment of the outstanding capital of the Russian loan, and that he interprets his orders as a demand for "a pound of King Milan's flesh."

There would be no inherent improbability in the theory that King Alexander's uneasiness of mind on the subject of Russia's movements has led to the publication of imaginary but startling intelligence, which may result in diplomatic explanations and enlightenment.

The Serb world has been thrown into a state of profound dejection by Bulgaria's success in obtaining the three last Berats from the Porte, and it was, perhaps, with a view to encourage the Serbs in Macedonia that ex-King Milan has just visited Vranja, on the southern frontier, with two Cabinet Ministers. His ex-Majesty was charged to represent the King at the celebration of the town's twentieth anniversary of independence.

If the letter to the "Nashe Doba" was written under inspiration from Servian head-quarters, its purpose may be to convince the public that the late Radical Government had allowed itself to be hoodwinked and betrayed by Bulgaria, and that Servia's sole hope of realizing her aspirations in Macedonia rests upon the good-will of Austria-Hungary, who is well disposed towards the present régime.

Ex-King Milan is said to be deeply imbued with a belief that the dynastic interests of the Obrenovitches were threatened by the attempts of the late Cabinet to establish close relations between this country, Bulgaria, and Montenegro, and he has quickly succeeded in changing the situation with respect to both those countries.

The "Male Novina," one of the most widely-read independent newspapers in Servia, whose editor contrives to keep himself on terms of privileged relationship with succeeding Governments, was the first to reproduce the "Nashe Doba" correspondence, and published a violent attack on Bulgaria in the same number, in which it stated that its editor had just been honoured by an audience of the King. Although a very regrettable, and possibly dangerous, newspaper war is now being waged against Bulgaria, it is difficult to accept the hypothesis that the Servian Government desires to provoke her neighbour for mere party purposes. Whilst no inexpensive means will be neglected to convince this country that the new Commander-in-chief is imparting fresh life and vigour into her military administration, Servia is in such a condition of military and financial weakness that an armed conflict with any foreign State would be sheer madness, and ex-King Milan has more than once confessed that he is quite alive to this fact, and has no intention of repeating the blunder of 1885.

The Servian Government is said to be in urgent need of some 10,000,000 fr. for various expenditure, inclusive of the cannon ordered last year from Creuzot, and is making strenuous efforts to procure this sum from the foreign banks. The latter, especially the French group, view the political situation with extreme suspicion, and a considerable fall in Servian bonds has taken place. The chances of financial relief are therefore very small.

I propose to forward a copy of this despatch to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Vienna.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

No. 17.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 14.)
My Lord,

Belgrade, February 2, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch to your Lordship, No. 13 of yesterday's date, I have the honour to transmit herewith translations of articles published in the "Male Novine" and "Odjek" newspapers bearing upon the subject of Russia's supposed intention to press the question of Macedonian autonomy to the advantage of Bulgarian and to the exclusion of Servian interests in that province.

The "Male Novine" endeavours to influence public opinion in favour of a reliance on Austrian support as the only means of saving Servia's threatened aspirations in Macedonia, and the "Odjek" reproduces an article from the St. Petersburgh "Viedmosti," in which Bulgaria is encouraged to demand from the Porte, not Berats for useless Bishoprics, but radical reforms for her co-religionists in Macedonia and the Vilayet of Adrianople.

The third translation, which I have the honour to inclose, was reproduced from the "Viedmosti" in the same number of the "Odjek," and refers to ex-King Milan's presence in Servia as the cause to which this country's approaching failure in foreign policy must be attributed.

The "Viedmosti" appears to take for granted that the question of Macedonian reform is on the eve of solution, and corroborates the view expressed by the correspondent of the "Nashe Doba" (reported in my preceding despatch), that Servia has nothing to expect from Russia's favour in the settlement that may be brought about.

The issue of to-day's "Odjek," in which these Russian articles were reprinted, has been confiscated by the Belgrade police.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 17.

Abstract of Article published in the "Male Novine" of January 21 (*February* 2), 1898.

(Translation.)

OUR entire race, and especially the new Kingdom of Servia, is placed in a position where it has to bear the full shock of the storms which beat upon it from every point of the compass.

Ever since the days of Peter the Great we in the Balkan Peninsula have been unceasingly exposed to the influence of two contending forces, viz., Russia and Austria. To safeguard our own interests under the pressure of these two opposing currents has been the most difficult of tasks. Whilst we should have preferred to lean altogether upon one of these Powers, circumstances have forced us to turn alternately from friend to enemy and from enemy to friend.

We all remember how the Russian Chancellor said to M. Ristitch at the Congress of Berlin, "Here is Andrassy, go to him. If you can get anything it must be through him, for your fate is in his hands." Russia has more than once turned us over in the same manner to our and her enemy, and we have been compelled to bow to the inevitable.

If history teaches us anything it is that we must incline to that side on which our vital interests depend. One thing can never be forgotten, and that is that we must bear aloft the flag of our national liberty and unity, and openly demand the recognition of our rights. Should any Great Power attempt to compromise or tread these rights under foot, we must look for help to some other Power and, if need be, to the whole of Europe—to God and man. Nothing would make us happier than to be able to turn at this fateful moment to those who should be our natural allies; to our brother Bulgarians, Russian relatives, or to our co-religionists the Greeks. What can we do, however, if our brother Russians attempt, as they did at San Stefano, to create a great Bulgaria at the expense of our most vital interests? Are we to allow ourselves to be sacrificed on the altar of a big Bulgarian Kingdom, or shall we turn, as M. Ristitch did, to Andrassy and save for ourselves some new Vranja, Pirot, and Nisch?

God preserve us from a renewal of our former experience, but what if fate will have it so? Is there any Servian living who would say "let Servia perish, but cling to Russia and Bulgaria?"

In other words Servia must, in her dire necessity, turn these where she would never go of her own free choice, but where her vital interests drive her. We are told that if we follow this course we shall incur the anger of Russia. This is a pure delusion, and we have no fear on such a score. What we do dread is the traditional belief in Russia that a strong Bulgaria will best serve to pioneer her interests in the Balkan Peninsula.

Had we done anything to incur the anger of Russia in 1878, when 50,000 Servian heroes sacrificed their lives against the Turk? We were then comrades-in-arms of

our Russian brothers, and yet she handed over to the Bulgarians what we had conquered with our blood, viz., Trn, Bresnik, Pernik, and even Sophia which our battalions then placed in her hands.

Servia then must be free to turn wherever her interests call her. Can she do so as long as we have men in the country who proclaim every step taken without Russia's consent to be an act of treason? This is a blindness, and we call upon the country to reflect calmly and dispassionately upon a question of the most serious and fateful importance to her future.

Inclosure 2 in No. 17.

Extract from the "Odjek" of January 21 (February 2), 1898.

(Translation.)

THE St. Petersburgh "Viedmosti," in an article on Bulgaria, writes as follows:—

"Turkey has issued Berats for three new Bishoprics in Macedonia at a moment when Bulgarian public opinion is greatly excited over the recent massacres at Vinjitsa, Shtita, and other places. It is evident that Turkey hoped by these gifts to gain over the Bulgarians in the Principality, and make them forget these bloody events. The clever Porte, however, has deceived itself. The complaisant Bulgarian Government has, indeed, trumpeted forth in its press that the Sultan has acted towards his Christian subjects as a true father, but the conscience of the people is not to be led astray. The latter have declared against Turkey, and looks upon the Berats as foul blood-money, of which it is a shame even to speak. Public opinion in Bulgaria does not want to return thanks for what has been received, but obstinately demands that the reforms provided for in the Treaty of Berlin shall be introduced in Macedonia and the Vilayet of Adrianople. We are reluctantly compelled to side with Bulgarian public opinion. Not three, nor yet three and thirty, Bishops' Berats will improve the position of the unhappy Ottoman subjects who are placed without the law, and for whom neither life, honour, nor property can be considered sure. As long as violence and injustice reign in Macedonia and in the Vilayet of Adrianople, and each Turk or Bashi-Bazouk can plunder and kill Christians with impunity, no Berats will be of the slightest use, and the Bulgarian Government, instead of asking for Bishops, should stand by the miserable and oppressed Bulgarians, and, sinking for a time all party differences, demand a radical reform in Macedonia."

Inclosure 3 in No. 17.

Extract from the "Odjek" of January 21 (February 2), 1898.

(Translation.)

THE St. Petersburgh "Viedmoste" publishes the following remarks on Servia:—

"The Belgrade press does not dare to say what it thinks on the subject of King Milan's appointment as Commander-in-chief of the Servian army, for speaking the truth would no doubt be considered as an offence against the King himself. It relieves its feelings, on the other hand, by daring attacks on the new Cabinet. The 'Dnevni List,' for instance, writes that the Government of Vladan Georgévitch possesses not one single element of liberal principle. . . . .

"The Servian newspapers do not dare to utter the name of that evil genius of Servia, but the Serbo-Austro-Hungarian press does not disguise the fact that behind Vladan Georgévitch looms the figure of ————,* upon whom must fall the entire responsibility for Servia's failure in foreign policy, and for all the consequences that may ensue to that country from her rapprochement with Austria-Hungary. He, however, would be powerless but for the support of his son."

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* The "Odjek" omits "ex-King Milan."

No. 18.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 15. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 3, 1898.

AT the Foreign Minister's reception to-day I asked Dr. Vladan Georgévitch if he could give me any information respecting the rumoured negotiations between Russia and Austria for the introduction of autonomous reform in Macedonia.

His Excellency seemed reluctant to answer, but on my pointing out that the articles in the "Viedmosti" (of which I had the honour to forward extracts in my preceding despatch to your Lordship) were in some sort corroborative of the views attributed to Russia by the "Nashe Doba" correspondent, he remarked that no official information had reached him on the subject of Russia's supposed advances to Austria, and that he was unwilling to commit himself to conjectures. It was clear to him, however, that a change had taken place in the attitude of the Powers, and that whereas a few weeks ago peace had seemed to be assured for the next four or five years, a sense of undefined uneasiness, and even alarm, had now arisen. Affairs in Albania have caused a coolness between Italy and Austria, and he asked himself whether it could be possible that events in the Far East were on the point of provoking war in Europe.

His Excellency begged me to tell him whether the state of public feeling in England was in any way similar to that which prevailed on the eve of the Crimean War.

I answered that my knowledge of public feeling at home was entirely derived from what I read in the newspapers, and that I could see no signs of either warlike feeling or alarm. The British nation apppeared to be waiting on events with great calmness, which I judged to be due to its consciousness of power and good intentions.

His Excellency seemed considerably surprised at my answer, and spoke of the great power of the British Empire, but could not conceal his soreness that this was being used to further the candidature of Prince George for the Governorship of Crete. "We can do nothing to prevent it," he said, "but the example to the small Balkan States is a fatal one—Servia, whose conduct throughout these Eastern troubles has been most loyal, is to be left to her fate, whilst Greece, who dared Europe, is to be rewarded. This is sure to bear evil fruit for Europe."

A reference on my part to the recent suspicions of Bulgaria with regard to Servian military preparations was met by M. Georgévitch with a smile of unfeigned amusement. Bulgaria, he declared, had simply used a pretext to mask her own preparations, which he knew to be considerable. All that he could say on this point, and on the situation generally, was that he is "on his guard."

My impressions from this conversation are that the Servian Government is anxious to pursue a peaceful policy, but is alarmed and greatly perplexed by its suspicions as to what is taking place. The military helplessness of this country is increased by the failure of last year's harvest. Wheat is being imported from Bulgaria, and the national granaries, which should be full, contain only 23,000,000 kilog. of maize.

I have, &c.

(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

No. 19.

Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 1, 1898.

CONSIDERABLE irritation has been felt in Government circles in Roumania at the fact of the Porte having recently issued "Berats" to the Bulgarian Bishops, while it has at the same time failed to carry out the Sultan's distinct promise, that a Berat would be issued, after the conclusion of the Turco-Greek war, for legalizing the position of the head of the Roumanian Church in Turkey.

I am informed that the Porte, after much procrastination, has expressed its inability to comply with the promise made, on account of the strenuous opposition of the Greek Patriarch.

Some surprise is also manifested at the delay of the Sultan in ratifying the recent Commercial Convention between Turkey and Roumania which has been awaiting His Majesty's signature for several weeks past.

The Convention will doubtless be signed in due time; but I understand that the Roumanian Government is refraining from putting on any pressure to insure prompt ratification, from the desire not to appear to attach any very great importance to the matter.

It would seem that the somewhat subservient attitude recently adopted by Roumania towards Turkey in connection with its refusal to receive into the country Armenian refugees and Greek immigrants has not produced its expected effect, and that the Ottoman Government does not show itself disposed to make any sacrifice in return for Roumania's somewhat inglorious attitude in its favour.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 20.

Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 2, 1898.

AT a recent reception held by the Minister of Foreign Affairs, I asked his Excellency what truth there was in the report of the projected colonization by Roumanians of the frontier of the Dobrudscha bordering on Bulgaria (as reported in my No. 169 of the 30th October, 1897).

M. Stourdza informed me that it was customary to make grants of State land to retired soldiers, and that arrangements were being made gradually to settle a number of these on the frontier in question.

With reference to the troubles about the Bulgarian schools, mentioned in the same despatch, I have now the honour to state that the new governing bodies of these schools in the Dobrudscha having accepted the Regulations imposed on them by the Roumanian Government, all troubles have ceased. The Ministry of Education has shown considerable firmness in the matter, and there is no doubt that had the Regulations not been accepted the schools would have been closed.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 21.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 35.)
My Lord, *Berlin, February* 2, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy and translation of an article which appeared in the "Cologne Gazette" of the 31st ultimo, reviewing the attitude of Germany in regard to the question of the appointment of Prince George of Greece to be Governor-General of Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

Inclosure in No. 21.

Extract from the "Cologne Gazette" of January 31, 1898.

(Translation.)

GERMANY AND CRETE.—In connection with the political situation created by the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the post of Governor-General of Crete, several German papers have raised the question as to why the German man-of-war "Oldenburg" still lies in Cretan waters, and what interest Germany can possibly have in the appointment of a Governor-General of the island. Both these questions appear to us to betray the fact that the papers in question have misunderstood the policy hitherto pursued by the Imperial Government. As far as we are able to judge of this policy, it is

as unassailable as it is unambiguous. In themselves, the events which may take place on the Island of Crete are a matter of indifference to Germany, so long as their effect does not extend beyond the limits of the island. Even if the rebellious Christian population should allow themselves to be incited to acts of oppression and to atrocities beyond what has already been the case, that would be no reason for risking the bones of a single Pomeranian grenadier or of one brave German sailor. It may therefore be considered a matter of complete indifference to Germany who may eventually be appointed Governor of the island, provided that such appointment does not involve consequences calculated less to pacify the island than to disturb the peace of Europe. If all the European Powers should arrive at an understanding with the Sultan for the nomination of a Greek Prince to the post of Governor-General of Crete, Germany would not have the least interest in opposing such an agreement. But it must be clear *à priori* to every impartial observer of recent events that an understanding of this nature is impossible without the use of violent coercive measures. The Sultan was forced into the late war, much against his own will, by Greece; the real cause of the war was the intended annexation of Crete to Greece and its separation from Turkey.

This object the Greeks were unable to attain by force of arms; the Sultan and his victorious troops destroyed their illusions in that respect. If His Majesty were now voluntarily to nominate a Greek Prince to the post of Governor-General, and thereby encourage the insurgents to continue the separatist agitation they have hitherto indulged in, he would destroy with one blow the whole result of the military achievements of his valiant army, and would expose himself to the censure of his loyal subjects in a most dangerous way. But that would not be all. The nomination of a Greek Prince to be Governor-General of Crete would be so great a triumph for the Greek schemes of annexation, that it would throw a firebrand into the other Balkan States, into Macedonia and Albania, and would urge them towards the same goal of the dismemberment of the Turkish Empire. Any Sultan who should voluntarily consent to the approximation of Crete to Greece would thereby lead up to the fall of the Turkish Empire, and consequently to a serious endangering of the peace of Europe.

This position of affairs is so evident, that the voluntary co-operation of the Sultan to such a result must be considered quite out of the question. It would be necessary therefore for the Great Powers to exercise violent pressure on the Sultan in order to induce him to act contrary to the vital interests of his domination and of the Turkish Empire. Such pressure would at least involve the entrance of several foreign squadrons into the Straits. Upon anything like calm reflection it must be obvious that the concert of the Powers who would attempt such joint coercion would very soon be broken up by the conflict of their various interests.

As opposed to this, the policy of the German Empire seems to us to be a perfectly obvious one. If only with a view to the wide extension of German trade, Germany requires most urgently that the peace of Europe should be preserved as long as possible, and that if war becomes inevitable the area of hostilities should be so limited so as to disturb as few German interests as possible. Germany has hitherto not concealed the fact that her co-operation in Cretan affairs was solely intended to serve the purpose of preserving the peace of Europe. The Imperial Government used all means in their power to encourage and maintain agreement between the Powers; and it could perform this task with all the more effect, because it had not the least interest in the local development of affairs in Crete. Germany therefore abstained from making a greater display of force in Cretan waters, and contented itself with sending one ship thither, merely as a visible token of the concert of the Powers. To abstain altogether from taking part in the naval demonstration would have laid Germany open to the charge of desiring to fish in troubled waters. Germany can and must preserve this attitude as long as there is any possibility of the concert of the Powers being maintained. Only when this possibility has been destroyed by the action of one or other of the Powers in pushing its own interests into the foreground will it become incumbent upon German policy to clearly emphasize the fact that the concert of Europe is at an end. The withdrawal of the "Oldenburg" from Cretan waters would be the natural result. This attitude cannot be a matter of surprise for any European Power; as every Government in Europe knows that Germany does not pursue any interests of its own in the Greek Archipelago, and would therefore refuse to take part in any action which might lead to an acute antagonism with the Sultan or with any other Power.

This is so clear a consequence of the pacific policy of Germany, that we cannot doubt for a moment that it will receive the support of the widest circles of the German people.

No. 22.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 7.)

(No. 37. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 1, 1898.

DURING the visit which the Emperor did me the honour to pay me this afternoon the conversation turned upon the Cretan question. His Majesty observed that the very mention of the word "candidate" made him shudder. All the Powers had accepted M. Bojo Petrovitch, and at the last moment, after having accepted him, the Russian Government prevented his nomination. On my observing that I understood that the objections came from the Prince of Montenegro, the Emperor said that the Prince would never oppose the wishes of Russia, and he had been positively informed that direct orders had been sent to His Highness by the Russian Government to raise objections.

With regard to the candidature of Prince George of Greece, His Majesty said that it had been put forward by Count Mouravieff for the purpose of regaining the favour of the Empress Mother, who had manifested her displeasure with him by discontinuing her invitations after the outbreak of the war between Turkey and Greece. On my observing that this would scarcely account for the insistance with which Russia pressed the candidature of Prince George, His Majesty said that he believed that Count Mouravieff was engaged in playing a game of brag, as indeed he had done before when the Germans went to Kiao-chau, and that as soon as he saw that he could not carry his point, he would give way as he did then.

I propose to report in another despatch the observations which His Majesty made on the subject of Count Mouravieff's action with regard to Kiao-chau.

The Emperor then repeated to me the language which Herr von Buelow had used as reported in my despatch No. 33 of the 28th ultimo. Germany was not directly interested in Crete; she objected to the nomination of Prince George because it would be practically the annexation of Crete by Greece, to which all the Powers had hitherto declared themselves opposed, and because it would lead to serious complications in the Balkans, as Bulgaria and Servia would demand compensation for the aggrandizement of Greece.

To this I replied that I understood that the Russian argument now was that the situation had completely changed. Greece had been completely defeated and had received a lesson which no doubt would produce its effect upon the other Balkan States, and moreover that Russia and Austria-Hungary could easily prevent any rising in Bulgaria and Servia. I added that during the time I had the honour of being Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh I had more than once had occasion to speak to Prince Lobanoff with reference to fears that were then entertained as to the possible action of Bulgaria, and that the Prince had stated his conviction that none of the different nationalities in the south-east of Europe would raise a finger unless they were assured beforehand of the support of some foreign Power. I added that I was somewhat surprised to hear such a confession from the lips of a Russian statesman, but that I believed that it was substantially accurate.

The Emperor, who appeared greatly interested at what I had said, observed that he did not see how it would be possible for Russia to overcome the Sultan's objections to the candidature of Prince George without having recourse to force. Turkey had been victorious in the war, and a very dangerous feeling would be excited among all his Mussulman subjects if His Majesty were to give away the fruits of his victory to mere threats which would not be put into execution.

I replied that it appeared to me that nothing would be easier than that the Russian ships at Sebastopol should appear before Yildiz Kiosk. The Bosphorus was not fortified, and there was nothing to prevent them from going there.

To this His Majesty replied that there were some batteries on the Bosphorus, although he admitted that they would not be sufficient to prevent the advance of the Russian ships, who, however, he was convinced, would only go to Constantinople with the consent of the Sultan. He did not believe that they would be employed to make a hostile demonstration against Turkey, and when he had suggested this possibility through Herr von Buelow to the Russian Ambassador, Count Osten Sacken had thrown up his arms and declared that Russia had no intention of employing force against Turkey. His Majesty said that he was convinced that the Emperor of Russia would not consent to coercive measures against Turkey, that the Sultan would never consent to the candidature of Prince George without coercion, and that Count Mouravieff would yield when he found that his threats, which he must be perfectly aware his Imperial Master would never allow him to carry into execution, produced no effect.

I then asked His Majesty what was to happen. The situation in Crete was getting worse every day. Not only had the houses ot the Mussulman landowners been destroyed, but their vineyards and olive trees had been cut down and wasted, and the whole island turned into a desert. I certainly would pity any man who would accept the post of Governor, and I felt that it was a reproach to the diplomacy of the Great Powers to have failed to arrive at a solution of the question.

The Emperor said that he believed that the question would be solved by England taking possession of Crete, and on my protesting strongly that Her Majesty's Government had no wish nor intention of doing so, His Majesty observed that Suda Bay was a very convenient anchorage, and that the addition of Crete to our possessions of Malta and Cyprus would form a complete protection to the Suez Canal.

I treated this observation of His Majesty as a joke, and said that we had already as much territory as we could conveniently deal with, and had no wish to take possession of a turbulent island which even in ancient times it had been found impossible to govern.

I have, &c.
(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 23.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 60.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 1, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum which I have received from the Sublime Porte, reporting a raid by insurgents at Banouzi, near Rethymo, in Crete.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 23.

Memorandum.

LE Commandant Militaire de Crète télégraphie que le 24 de ce mois des insurgés ont fait feu sur quelques bergers sur la voie de Banouzi (Rethymo), blessé un d'entre eux ainsi qu'un sergent de gendarmerie et enlevé une cinquantaine de moutons appartenant aux Musulmans.

Le 29 *Janvier*, 1898.

No. 24.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 63.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 2, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 44 of the 20th January inclosing copy of a note addressed by the French, Russian, and British Embassies to the Greek Legation, urging the prompt re-establishment of the Greek Consulates in the Ottoman Empire, I have the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith copy of the reply received from the Hellenic Minister, stating the measures already taken by his Government to give effect to the wishes of the three protecting Embassies.

I have the honour to report that Prince Mavrocordato was received in audience by the Sultan on the 24th ultimo, when he presented to His Majesty the letters re-accrediting him as Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary of His Majesty the King of the Hellenes.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 24.

The Greek Legation at Constantinople to the Ambassadors of Great Britain, France, and Russia.

Légation Royale Hellénique, Constantinople, le 14 (26) *Janvier*, 1898.

LA Légation Royale Hellénique s'empresse d'accuser réception de la note verbale que les Ambassadeurs d'Angleterre, de France, et de Russie ont bien voulu lui adresser en date du 20 Janvier, pour recommander le prompt rétablissement des Consulats Hellènes dans l'Empire Ottoman et spécialement dans les villes où la colonie Hellène est importante.

Cette note a été communiquée et les considérations qui s'y trouvent exposées ont été tout particulièrement recommandées à l'attention du Gouvernement Royal.

La Légation Hellénique a l'honneur d'informer les Ambassadeurs d'Angleterre, de France, et de Russie que les Consuls-Généraux de Grèce à Smyrne, Salonique, et Janina, ainsi que le Consul-Général Directeur de la Chancellerie de Constantinople ont déjà reçu l'ordre de rejoindre leur poste avec tout leur personnel. Les Consuls de première et de deuxième classe ne tarderont pas à reprendre également la direction de leurs Consulats respectifs.

No. 25.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 66. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 3, 1898.

THE action of the Russian Embassy here in regard to the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the Governorship of Crete has not up to the present time yielded any definite results. Its effect has been to suspend the meetings of the Ambassadors and to put an end to the free exchange of views which had existed for the two past years.

We are now dependent for our knowledge of the action of our colleagues on such private communications as may pass between us. In the case of the Russian Embassy these are not frequent, as M. Zinoview is remarkably reticent, and owing to sedentary habits or delicate health rarely leaves his house. Even the French Ambassador appears to be only imperfectly acquainted with what has taken place, and assures me that he has no knowledge of the motives that have prompted the action of Russia, nor of her ultimate intentions. He, however, expresses the belief that M. Zinoview is as ignorant on these points as he is himself.

The German and Austrian Ambassadors both declare that they have given no advice to the Porte against the appointment of Prince George, but it is, of course, well known that their opinions and those of their Governments are hostile to the proposal.

The Italian Ambassador has received no instructions, though he believes that his Government would be inclined to support Prince George if his candidature was put forward with any prospect of success.

The general opinion among those most favourable to the Prince is that the moment chosen by Russia for pressing his claims was an unfortunate one.

In March of last year, when war was on the point of breaking out, the Ambassadors were prepared to recommend to their Governments, as I reported to your Lordship in my telegram No. 190 of the 2nd April, a suggestion made by me according to which the nomination of Prince George as Governor of Crete under the suzerainty of the Sultan might have been adopted as a means of averting hostilities.

At that time the Sultan would probably have accepted such an arrangement if pressed upon him by the Powers, but the occupation of Thessaly has changed the situation, and there is considerable danger that the establishment of a member of the Greek Royal Family in Crete at the present moment might entail the loss of Thessaly to Greece.

The Hellenic Minister here professes to look upon this danger as a serious one, and to feel some doubts as to the real motives of Russia in putting forward the proposal.

I am confidentially informed that the Turkish Minister at Athens gives a similar report of the language held by the Greek Foreign Minister, who declared to him that the Hellenic Government was holding entirely aloof from the question.

Since the communication which I made to the Foreign Minister by your Lordship's

instructions on the 24th ultimo, I have taken no further steps at the Porte except to inquire from time to time as to the progress of the negotiations with the Russian Embassy. I reported in my telegram No. 35 of the 29th ultimo Tewfik Pasha's account of the situation. M. Zinoview, whom I had also asked to keep me informed on the subject, has not done so, but I learn privately that since the 28th ultimo he has taken no step, and has been awaiting further instructions from his Government.

Turkish feeling is undoubtedly strongly hostile to the Russian proposal. It is looked upon as inevitably leading to the annexation of Crete to Greece, and it is considered very unfair that the sacrifices in men and money which the country has made and the victories gained by the Turkish army should result in the loss of the island, which was the original cause of the war.

Hitherto the Russians have protested that they have no intention of coercing the Sultan, and that if their candidate is not accepted they have no other to propose.

The Sultan shows no sign of yielding, and, unless Russia decides to employ some stronger form of pressure or to encourage the Cretans to set the Turkish Government at defiance and proclaim Prince George or annexation, it seems likely that the Cretan question will drag on indefinitely.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

No. 26.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February 7.*)

(No. 68. Confidential.)

Constantinople, February 3, 1898.

My Lord,

THE Bulgarian Agent informs me that the inclosed précis, which is substantially the same as that communicated to the press by Reuter's Agency, accurately represents the contents of a Memorandum which he recently presented both to the Grand Vizier and the Sultan's First Secretary, complaining of the arrest and torture of Bulgarians in northern Macedonia.

Your Lordship is in possession of various other accounts of the affair, obtained by Her Majesty's Consul-General at Salonica, and forwarded by him direct to London.

M. Marcoff added that the incident was beginning to produce a serious agitation in Bulgaria. He did not believe that, at present, any general political movement respecting Macedonia had any chance of success, but accounts of wholesale arrests and torture would certainly arouse popular indignation, which would carry the Government with it. If the answer to his Memorandum was unsatisfactory, the Bulgarian Government intended to appeal to the Powers, and demand an international inquiry into the alleged outrages.

I propose to call Tewfik Pasha's attention to the incident in a friendly and informal manner, and to earnestly advise him to make a thorough investigation, and, if the allegations made by M. Marcoff prove true, to take steps to punish the perpetrators of these excesses.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 26.

Précis.

M. MARCOFF handed the Grand Vizier a few days ago a Memorandum on the events which have taken place in the Vilayet of Uscub since November respecting the arrest of 592 Bulgarians, amongst them being thirty professors and several priests.

It is alleged that thirty-three persons, of whom seven died, were tortured to make them disclose names; that a girl of 10 years of age was outraged, and died in consequence, and that other women and girls were violated; that people in prison at Kumanova were continually flogged; and that a priest of Palanka was murdered as he was leaving the country.

The Memorandum further declares that more crimes were committed than are detailed here.

It recognizes the right of the Porte to institute proceedings against persons com-

promised by the discovery of depôts of arms. It declares, however, that these deeds of violence have excited popular feeling in Bulgaria to a very high degree; have occasioned a panic-stricken flight of the frontier population towards Bulgaria, and will force the Government to intervene. It alludes to the recent loyal and peaceful attitude of Bulgaria, calls the serious attention of the Porte to these occurrences, and earnestly begs that this persecution may at once cease. It requests the establishment of a military cordon round the disturbed districts, the transference of all the prisoners to Uscub, and the institution of legal proceedings—the dismissal of the Kaïmakams of Istib and Kumanova, of the Chief of Police of Kratovo, and of the Kaïmakam and Kadi of Palanka.

The Memorandum earnestly begs that measures for restoring tranquillity may be taken which are in the interest of both parties, otherwise complications may be apprehended and peace disturbed.

List of Arrests referred to.

Kochana	..	..	..	..	..	..	172
Pechevo	..	..	..	..	..	..	51
Ishtip ..	..	..	..	..	..	..	159
Kratovo	..	..	..	..	..	..	64
Kumanova	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Strumnitza } Veles }	..	..	..	..	..	..	120
Total	..	..	..	..	..	..	592

No. 27.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 25. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 3, 1898.

I HAD an opportunity last night of asking M. de Kállay what he thought of affairs in the Balkans.

His Excellency said that, although he was without more immediate information beyond the reports of his functionaries in Bosnia, who kept careful watch across the frontier, the symptoms he noted presaged trouble in the spring. It might be assumed, he said, that when the first snows of winter did not bring with them a complete cessation from agitation, renewed activity would follow with open weather. There had been no winter rest this season, and there was no denying that the antagonism between Bulgarians and Serbs was taking a more and more acute form, and affording an opportunity to any Power who chose to take advantage of it. The worst of it was that, except by sending in armies, which was not to be thought of, there was no checking this trouble. Joint minatory notes such as had been previously addressed to the Balkan Powers had an effect on the Governments concerned, but did not tell on the populations and the agitators at work amongst them.

I made an indirect approach to the question whether the understanding with Russia was continuing to work satisfactorily; but beyond a general reply that such was the case, elicited nothing more precise from M. de Kállay.

His Excellency was the chief promoter of this Agreement, but is chary of his confidences respecting it. Probably all the more so in reason of recent circumstances which have cast doubts on its intrinsic worth in the view of the uninitiated.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 28.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Vienna, February* 4, 1898.

DURING some conversation I had yesterday with Count Goluchowski on Cretan affairs, his Excellency simply reiterated—if anything somewhat more strongly—the objections he entertains to the appointment of Prince George of

Greece to the Governor-Generalship of Crete. These objections, he added, continued to be fully shared at Berlin.

Going again over the ground we have frequently covered together in the last few weeks, his Excellency observed that in considering the matter he was struck with amazement at the turn which this Cretan business had taken. The Ambassadors at Constantinople had elaborated a scheme—a Constitution his Exeellency called it—for the future government of the island, which had been approved by the Powers, and a main feature of which was the appointment for a term of two years or thereabouts, to be extended if necessary, of a Provisional Governor, whose special care it would be to organize the island before it was handed over to the permanent Governor-General hereafter to be named. All of a sudden a new departure had taken place. There was no longer any question of a Provisional Governor, but a Governor-General was put forward whose personality entirely altered the general aspect of the affair, and whom it was apparently intended to send straight to the island before it was pacified or organized—to evolve order out of chaos. His Excellency continued for some time in this strain.

On my asking him what was his last intelligence from Constantinople, he replied that it was to the effect that the Sultan was firmly resolved not to give his consent to the proposed appointment. I observed that it had been evident from the first that the Sultan would not agree to any candidate not of his own choice, and the ultimate necessity of compelling his assent had all along been contemplated as a last resort. His Excellency himself, I reminded him, had been prepared for such a course when the grave events which had occurred at Constantinople seemed to call for strong action towards the Sultan. Count Goluchowski admitted this, but observed that at that time it was Russia which had opposed coercion. Now it was the other way, but he considered it almost impossible that coercion should be applied without an agreement between the Powers, which certainly did not exist now.

As far as Count Goluchowski is concerned, I should say that his opposition to the proposal of Russia had stiffened if anything of late.

An extract from the "Fremdenblatt," herewith inclosed in translation, commenting on what may be held to be the Russian point of view as given in the "Correspondenz Politique," conveys a very correct idea of the position taken up in this business at the Ballplatz.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

Inclosure 1 in No. 28.

Extract from the "Correspondenz Politique" of February 3, 1898.

(Translation.)

ON nous écrit de Saint-Pétersbourg, 31 Janvier :—

"Quel que soit l'attention que les cercles gouvernementaux Russes consacrent aux affaires de l'Extrême Orient, ils s'occupent aussi en même temps avec ardeur de la question Crétoise qu'on désirerait vivement voir résolue. A ce sujet, les sphères gouvernementales estiment que ce qui importe le plus et doit être le plus vite effectué n'est pas précisément le parachèvement de l'élaboration des dispositions législatives et administratives à introduire dans l'île, mais bien plutôt la nomination du Gouverneur-Général auquel incombera le soin de pacifier finalement ce pays. Elles considèrent qu'on ne saurait tolérer la prolongation indéfinie d'un état de choses qui se traduit journellement par des désordres publics, des conflits entre les Musulmans et les insurgés Chrétiens de l'île, des scènes de meurtre, d'incendie, et de pillage.

"En conséquence, le Cabinet de Saint-Pétersbourg, vivement désireux de voir enfin la Crète rentrer dans un état normal, voudrait une prompte solution du problème de la nomination du Gouverneur-Général et aussi que cette solution se déterminât en faveur du candidat proposé par lui, le Prince Georges de Grèce. Cette candidature a, comme on sait, rencontré l'opposition des Cabinets de Berlin et de Vienne, qui craignent naturellement que sa réalisation ne mène bientôt à une annexion de la Crète au Royaume Hellénique et ne trouble la tranquillité des États Balcaniques en rallumant entre eux l'esprit de jalousie et de compétition qui forme le fond de leurs sentiments nationaux; qui craignent, en outre, que le surgissement très possible de conflits entre ces États ne provoque des complications internationales

encore plus graves, de nature à compromettre même la sécurité de la paix générale.

"Mais, tout en appréciant à leur juste valeur les appréhensions de l'Allemagne et de l'Autriche-Hongrie, en comprenant qu'elles justifient jusqu'à certain point leur opposition à la candidature du Prince Georges, on se demande ici si, ayant à choisir entre la funeste alternative de la continuation du déplorable état de choses qui règne actuellement en Crète et les risques susexposés se rattachant à cette candidature, il ne vaudrait pas mieux donner la préférence à la moins dangereuse de ces alternatives, qui est évidemment celle des risques en question, puisqu'ils ne constituent, en somme, qu'une probabilité, tandis que la présente situation est bel et bien une réalité, et qu'outre cela il y a parfaitement lieu de prévoir que l'avènement d'un autre personnage quelconque au poste de Gouverneur - Général de la Crète n'empêchera point la continuation, dans cette île, de l'agitation Grecque. On pense même ici qu'il serait plus facile aux Gouvernements des Puissances Européennes de prendre des mesures préventives contre les effets de cette agitation en nommant le Prince Georges, qui ne refuserait certes pas d'adhérer à l'adoption de ces mesures.

"Enfin, les sphères officielles Russes jugent que si la candidature du Prince Georges venait à échouer, après tant d'autres, le choix d'un nouveau candidat serait encore plus difficile que n'a été celui des précédents et c'est pourquoi, tout en espérant jusqu'à ce jour réussir à écarter l'opposition rencontrée, le Cabinet de Saint-Pétersbourg a résolu que la proposition de la candidature du Prince Georges serait sa dernière tentative en ce sens et qu'en cas d'échec, il renoncerait à se mêler plus longtemps de cette question, comme devenant, en pareil cas, à ses yeux, à peu près insoluble."

Inclosure 2 in No. 28.

Extract from the "Fremdenblatt" of February 4, 1898.

(Translation.)

AFTER quoting a letter from St. Petersburgh to the "Correspondenz Politique," dated the 31st January, the "Fremdenblatt" observes :—

"In spite of the scantiness of the information before us on the subject of Prince George's candidature, everything points to the fact—(and this is also confirmed by the letter above quoted, which reports the views held in Government circles at St. Petersburgh)—that the unanimity required for such a candidature does not exist. No one can deny that the situation in Crete is bad. Against the view that only the appointment of Prince George could put an end to Hellenic agitation in Crete, it may be urged that the appointment of any other personage, who would merely be a Provisional Governor-General, and who would be charged with the application of the Autonomy Statute, would presumably contribute more to the pacification of all classes of the Cretan population, and several names were mentioned before that of Prince George was brought forward. Even apart from this, there remains the consideration, which appears to us conclusive, that the question as to how order may be introduced most quickly into the Island of Crete—important as it is—is, nevertheless, of far less importance than the question as to the requirements of the situation in the Balkan Peninsula, which belongs to continental Europe. Those Cabinets which regard the appointment of Prince George as undesirable may even perceive that from such a risky pressure on the will of the Sultan dangers may result greater than those which might arise from the non-appointment of Prince George. It appears to us evident that, in view of the known opposition of the Sultan, who considers the choice of a Governor-General from the Royal Family of Greece almost as the fulfilment of Greek aspirations—a change of views on the part of His Imperial Majesty can only be obtained by the visible exercise of coercion. As regards the means and degree of such coercion, it was so difficult to arrive at an agreement in the case of the Armenian atrocities—even under pressure of a possible catastrophe at Constantinople—that it may be even more difficult to arrive at a similar agreement on account of the appointment of a Governor-General of Crete.

No. 29.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 3, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 217 and 221 of the 9th and 17th December, I have the honour to report that the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople has, by M. Stoïloff's instructions, made representations to the Turkish Government on the subject of the outrages committed on the Bulgarian inhabitants of Northern Macedonia in the course of the search for arms.

The Bulgarian Government admits that the discovery of arms justifies the use of severe measures, but not the infliction of torture upon men and dishonour upon women, and it calls for the dismissal of the Turkish officials who have been guilty of such acts, giving detailed lists of the victims in support of its assertions. M. Markoff was instructed to point out that while an agitation in Bulgaria in favour of reforms in Macedonia can be kept within bounds, the public feeling in the Principality may become excited beyond control if reports of these excesses continue to arrive here.

In the course of conversation, after M. Stoïloff had given me the preceding information, his Excellency said that it appeared as if Russia was going to make it her business to call upon the Sultan to introduce reforms into his Empire. I remarked that of late Russia has been much more "remuante" in this part of the world, and M. Stoïloff replied that that is certainly the case, and that the reports of his Agents in the neighbouring Turkish provinces show a great revival of Russian activity there. It is too early, he said, to discern the object to which Russian policy is tending, but it is no doubt directed against the expansion of Austria. One thing, however, is certain, that whatever measure of autonomy Russia, for her own purposes, is able to obtain for the provinces in question, she herself will derive no greater advantage than she has done by the creation of Bulgaria.

With regard to the objection said to be made by the Sultan to the appointment of Prince George of Greece as Governor of Crete, on the ground that the Balkan States would demand "compensation" in other directions, M. Stoïloff said that, as far as Bulgaria is concerned, there is no question of such a demand, inasmuch as this country has no concern in Cretan affairs, and regards Hellenic aspirations in that quarter with sympathy.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 30.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 7.)

(No. 19.)

My Lord,

Sophia, February 3, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 206 of the 11th November, 1897, I have the honour to report that Colonel Peshkoff, the Russian Military Attaché at Constantinople, has returned to Sophia finally to settle the conditions of the return of the "emigrant" officers.

M. Stoïloff, who said he had not yet seen the Colonel, told me the Russian Agent had been instructed to propose that the "emigrant" Grueff should come here to conduct the negotiations, but that M. Bakhmeteff had himself admitted, when it was pointed out to him, that it was impossible for the Bulgarian Government to treat "de puissance à puissance" with a man who was about again to become one of their own subjects and servants; and Colonel Peshkoff had consequently come back.

Except Bendereff, and those officers who left Bulgaria to escape prosecution on other than political charges, all the "emigrants" are gradually to return, and to be appointed to posts suitable to their rank. They are previously to resign their Russian commissions, and when once they have re-entered the Bulgarian service, the Russian Government is to have no further right to interfere in their behalf. These, said M. Stoïloff, are the principal points that have been agreed upon, and which it is now necessary to embody in some formal document binding upon the Russian Government, in order to prevent a repetition of what happened with regard to the agreement made with M. Tcharykow,

which, although the Bulgarian Government had it in writing, did not prevent the Russian Government from reopening the question.

I remarked that however desirable it was to bring to a close a question which caused such friction with the Russian Government, I could not but regard it as most unfortunate that these men should be brought back into the Bulgarian army. M. Stoïloff replied that, in common with many others, I rated the effect of their presence in the army much too high. With the exception of Colonels Grueff and Vazoff, none of them were men of any influence, and their social position would be just what the other officers chose to make it.

I should be justified in concluding from M. Stoïloff's language that, when once the Russian Government has formally renounced all interest in the future of these men, the Bulgarian officers will be given to understand that they are at liberty to make life in the army unendurable to them. But there will be many who will not venture to boycott them, unless the example is set by the Palace, which is hardly possible.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 31.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 4, 1898.

WITH reference to Admiralty letter of the 5th ultimo and to previous correspondence respecting a complaint made by the Sublime Porte, that the contractors who supply the foreign troops in Crete refuse to pay customs and other duties on the provisions which they import into the island for the use of the foreign contingents, I am commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Harris, dated the 12th ultimo, on this subject.

In forwarding this letter, the Commander-in-chief on the Mediterranean Station observes that this question was settled at the meeting of the Admirals on the 28th June, 1897, inclosed in Rear-Admiral Harris' report on Cretan affairs of the 17th July, 1897.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 31.

Rear-Admiral Harris to Admiral Sir J. Hopkins.

(No. 42.)

Sir, "*Revenge*," *at Candia, January* 12, 1898.

IN reply to Admiralty letter of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to state that on the 20th June the Admirals laid down the principle that the international force, which had been sent to Crete to pacify the island, was not subject to taxes.

Agreeably to this principle, persons make contracts with the international forces for food supplies, and the same are now in force.

If it were not so, the contractors would raise their prices accordingly.

It is not to be supposed that the international troops were sent to Crete to increase the local revenue, though indirectly they do so, as the flourishing state of Canea shows.

I beg leave to draw attention to *procès-verbaux* Nos. 73 and 93 on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. HARRIS.

No. 32.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 7.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 4, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 5th ultimo, I am commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, copy of a letter from Rear-Admiral Harris, dated the 21st ultimo, relative to the Cretan Relief Fund.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 32.

Rear-Admiral Harris to Admiral Sir J. Hopkins.

(No. 44.)
Sir, "*Revenge*," *at Suda Bay, January* 21, 1898.

REFERRING to Admiralty letter of the 11th instant, I have the honour to acquaint you that, Her Majesty's Consul for Crete having informed me that a large portion of the money granted by the Governments of Russia, France, and Italy for the relief of distressed Cretans has been appropriated for distribution at Canea, and there being no funds whatever for the relief of the distress in Candia, I have formed a Committee at the latter place, consisting of Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside as Chairman, the Senior Naval Officer, a military medical officer, and the accountant officer of the Senior Officer's ship, for giving relief to the distressed, independent of religion or race.

I have already issued 100*l.* to this Committee, but have informed Sir Herbert Chermside that only urgent cases should be dealt with, in which case I anticipate that the sum granted by Her Majesty's Government will last until the beginning of the summer.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. HARRIS.

No. 33.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 10.)
My Lord, *Salonica, February* 3, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch from Mr. Vice-Consul Hampson, relative to the misconduct of the Turkish troops in the Vilayet of Monastir.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 33.

Vice-Consul Hampson to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 10.)
Sir, *Monastir, January* 26, 1898.

I REGRET to report that the soldiers are beginning to give considerable trouble in this vilayet. The season of Ramazan makes them especially discontented at not receiving their pay, and robberies of persons, houses, and shops occur almost nightly in this town.

From the country round, also, I hear of various cases of assault and robbery by soldiers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) CHARLES S. HAMPSON.

No. 34.

Treasury to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(Communicated to Foreign Office, February 8.)

(Confidential.)

Dear Sir, *Treasury, February 5, 1898.*

I DULY reported to the Chancellor of the Exchequer the gist of the conversation which I had the honour of recently having with your Excellency on the subject of the Turkish Guaranteed Loan of 1855.

I gathered that you could hold out no hope that any proposal involving the practical extinction of the Cyprus tribute would be favourably entertained by His Imperial Majesty the Sultan; and that, therefore, it would be useless to resume negotiations on that basis.

Understanding, however, that your Excellency is still desirous of coming to some arrangement with Her Majesty's Government, and being anxious to show his friendly disposition towards the Porte, the Chancellor of the Exchequer authorizes me to submit a new proposal. The proposal is explained in the accompanying Memorandum.

Your Excellency will observe that, while the Cyprus tribute would undergo reduction, nothing would be done which might have the appearance of an interference with the sovereign rights of the Sultan in the island, and the Porte would not only receive the surplus effected by the "conversion" of the 1855 Loan, but would have a reversionary interest in both tributes assigned to the loan, which under present arrangements are practically worthless assets to the Porte.

The Chancellor of the Exchequer is confident that no measure that did not secure for Cyprus a substantial relief from its present annual burdens would commend itself to the Imperial Parliament.

If His Imperial Majesty the Sultan agreed to such a reduction, it is probable that an arrangement could be concluded which would benefit alike both some of the subjects of His Majesty and the Porte itself.

I beg, &c.

(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

Inclosure in No. 34.

Heads of a New Proposal submitted by the Chancellor of the Exchequer to his Excellency the Turkish Ambassador on February 5, 1898.

1. HIS Imperial Majesty the Sultan to undertake:—

(1.) To reduce the annual tribute payable by Cyprus to the Porte by a fixed sum of

(2.) To exercise the power which the Imperial Ottoman Government reserved to itself, when issuing the Guaranteed Loan of 1855, of redeeming and thus extinguishing the amount of that loan still outstanding (viz., 3,815,200*l.*), whenever that Government is moved to exercise such power, and is furnished with the requisite funds by one or both of the Guaranteeing Powers (Great Britain and France).

(3.) To assign to Great Britain, or to Great Britain and France jointly—

(*a.*) The portion of the Egyptian tribute amounting to 72,000*l.* a-year, which is now appropriated to the service of the Turkish Guaranteed Loan of 1855, and

(*b.*) The reduced Cyprus tribute, for so long as there remained outstanding any liability in respect of the money raised to redeem the Guaranteed Loan.

2. Her Majesty's Government to undertake, when empowered to do so by Parliament—

(1.) To raise by itself, or in conjunction with France, a new loan on the securities named in the preceding paragraph;

(2.) To pay to the credit of ths Imperial Ottoman Government, at the Bank of England, so much of the proceeds of the loan as would be required to discharge the outstanding bonds of 1855; and

(3.) To hand over the balance to the Imperial Ottoman Treasury.

The following illustrates the financial effect of such a proposal:—

The amount by which Her Majesty's Government is of opinion that the Cyprus tribute should be reduced, so as to enable Cyprus to meet the cost of her own administration, is 35,000*l.*: that is, a reduction from 92,000*l.* to 57,000*l.*

	£	£
If the Imperial Ottoman Government offered for sixty years the following securities, viz.:—		
Egyptian tribute		72,000
Reduced Cyprus tribute		57,000
Total		129,000
then with the guarantee of Her Majesty's Government, or jointly with France, such annual sum of 129,000*l.* should raise a loan bearing 2½ per cent. interest, and repayable in sixty years, to the amount of 3,994,000*l.*		
The amount of the 1855 Guaranteed Loan is .. .	3,815,200	
The consols in which the accumulations of Cyprus tribute surplus have been invested would at current prices produce about	174,000	
The amount, therefore, required out of the new loan for redeeming the old loan would be		3,641,200
There would, therefore, be a sum available for the Imperial Ottoman Treasury (less any commission or expenses) of		352,800

February 5, 1898.

No. 35.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 5.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Canea, Crete, February* 7, 1898.

THE suggestion made by Colonel Chermside that half the salary of Ottoman gendarmes should be paid out of the surtaxe fund was favourably received by the Admirals, who invited the Consuls to obtain from the Ambassadors the necessary authorization.

The opinion of the Consular body is that the request might be granted on the express condition that these gendarmes will be, as in Canea, placed under the direct orders of officers of the international forces, who will also control the expense, which should be limited and fixed beforehand.

No. 36.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 8.)

(No. 40.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 7, 1898, 7·10 P.M.

NORTH Macedŏnia: My telegram No. 39 of the 5th instant.

Mr. Amery, correspondent of the "Manchester Guardian," sends me a report confirming the allegations which have been made respecting the infliction of torture by Turkish troops upon the Bulgarian inhabitants of certain villages in order to extort confessions regarding the concealment of arms. It seems clear that seizures have been made of a considerable number of arms.

No. 37.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 26.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 3, 1898.

THE Austrian and Italian Representatives, as well as the German, have been authorized to notify the approval of their respective Governments of the Règlement, Projet de Loi, and Protocol for the financial control.

The Russian Minister has been informed by his Government that they also accept the three above-mentioned results of the labour of the Commission, but he has not been specially instructed to notify the fact to the Hellenic Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 38.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 27. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 3, 1898.

OF the Greek public men, M. Scouloudis seemed to be the best informed and the most serious, and consequently to the foreign Representatives, inspired most confidence, but the appearance in yesterday's "Proïa" of a Circular, which he addressed last spring just before the outbreak of the war to the Christian Chiefs in Crete, proves that some illusion has been entertained on the subject of his steadiness of character.

Your Lordship may remember that on the 4th March last year I communicated by telegraph, confidentially, a scheme drawn up by M. Scouloudis for the autonomous government of Crete, with Prince George as Prince under the suzerainty of the Sultan. I did so, as M. Scouloudis, from his experience, appeared convinced that the scheme would be approved by the country.

The circular now published, written by M. Scouloudis a few weeks later, earnestly urged that the scheme of a Cretan Principality under Prince George should be refused, as it put off for an indefinite time the desired union, and that there should be no yielding on the part of the Cretans to pressure from whatever quarter such pressure may be brought, and that simple union with Greece must be insisted on.

It is clear that this complete change of front is attributable to M. Scouloudis submissively following the lead of his excitable associates of the Opposition, Messrs. Theotoki, Romanoz, &c.; but I understand that he says it was caused by his solicitude for the dynasty, which in the then sense of public opinion would have been in danger if an autonomy under Prince George had been substituted for the hoped-for union. M. Scouloudis called upon me to-day, evidently to give me some explanation of this sort, but I was out.

I understand from the King that even the Cretans are now most highly indignant with M. Scouloudis for the part he then played in advising the rejection of the candidature of Prince George, which they now so earnestly desire.

One of my colleagues, talking of the pitiful history of last spring, told me that it was in a French lady's salon here at the end of March last that an indiscreet Secretary of Legation mentioned, in the presence of M. Theotoki, that Russia had confidentially suggested Prince George for Crete, and that M. Theotoki on learning this news, at once imparted it to his political associates of the Opposition, and to M. Rally, and the following morning there appeared violent articles in the press against a traitorous scheme of sacrificing natural interests to those of the dynasty.

After this no one dared to suggest autonomy, still less the withdrawal of the Greek troops, and M. Scouloudis' fears even led him to disown and immolate his own offspring.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 39.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 29.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 4, 1898.

IN my despatch No. 24 of the 25th ultimo I mentioned, with regret, that His Royal Highness the Crown Prince had expressed himself to a newspaper interviewer respecting the injustice of the criticisms encouraged here respecting his conduct during the war.

Yesterday His Royal Highness at some length spoke on the subject with his customary simplicity and straightforwardness; but I cannot say that my opinion is

No. 39*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 9.)

(No. 44.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 9, 1898, 7·15 P.M.

MY telegram No. 42 of 8th February.

My Austrian colleague hears from his Consul at Uscub that Mr. Amery has been cited before a Turkish Court to answer a charge of assaulting the police. The Vali is evidently much incensed against Mr. Amery, and wants to drive him out of the country. Austrian Consul reports that the police have handled him roughly. If he is obliged to go into Court, the Austrian Dragoman will attend, but I am pressing the Porte to stop proceedings, and propose, if they refuse, to send Eliot to Uscub.

changed as to the wisdom of silence. It is very natural though that His Royal Highness should bitterly resent the baseless and cruel misstatements made concerning himself and his staff, and the exaggerated popular estimate of the services of General Smolenski and desire to publish his Report.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 40.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 9, 1898, 4·30 P.M.

IF you consider that the evidence brought to your knowledge clearly substantiates the reports of the torture of Bulgarian villagers, referred to in your telegram No. 40 of the 7th instant, you should address a remonstrance to the Turkish Government, and request them to institute a strict inquiry into the circumstances.

Before doing so, you might ascertain whether any of your colleagues would be disposed to join with you in such action.

No. 41.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(Received February 10.)

Sir, *Admiralty, February* 9, 1898.

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a letter from Rear-Admiral Harris, dated the 30th ultimo, and its inclosures, relative to the state of affairs in Crete.

I am to request that these documents, which are in original, may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) H. J. VAN SITTART NEALE.

Inclosure in No. 41.

Rear-Admiral Harris to Admiral Sir J. Hopkins.

(No. 476.)
Sir, "*Revenge*," *at Suda Bay, January* 30, 1898.

IN continuation of my letter No. 476 of the 9th January, I have the honour to report that on Tuesday morning, the 11th instant, I left Suda Bay, and arrived at Candia the same forenoon in Her Majesty's ship "Revenge."

15. The reports of the repeated raids and counter-raids across the cordon which had reached me from Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside and other sources necessitated some more active measures being taken to put a stop to them.

16. Having consulted Sir Herbert Chermside, and received the attached reports, which show that, either from supineness or from policy, the Governor of Candia had permitted the raids to take place, although due and definite notice was in some instances given him by Sir Herbert Chermside that the Moslems had them in contemplation, I determined to request the Council of Admirals to consider the desirability of having Chefki Bey, the Governor, removed. It is fair, however, to say that in some instances, after receipt of warnings from Colonel Sir H. Chermside, the measures taken to prevent raids were effectual.

17. On my return to Suda the Council demanded from the Acting Governor-General of Crete the removal of Chefki, and I infer that, as a result of some communications with the Porte, Edhem Pasha, late Military Commandant of Turkish troops at Canea, was appointed, and left for Candia in the Austrian Lloyd steamer of the 24th with considerable promptitude.

18. In the interim (and probably after hearing of his proposed removal), however, some energy was displayed by Chefki Bey, and twenty-four Moslems, supposed to be the raiders, were arrested, all of whom were brought to Suda in Her Majesty's ship "Astræa."

The four named as the most culpable have been sent to Spinalonga in the French cruiser "Galilée." The others were taken to Canea in the "Astræa," and handed over to the Military Commandant of that place on the 28th. It appears that some proportion of these prisoners had been previously started out of Rethymo by the Russians, who are able to carry out a more systematic police control of that town than is possible in Candia under present conditions. The result is that all Moslems of bad repute drift into Candia. This is, I also understand, the case with the bad characters of Sitia, Spinalonga, Hierapetra, and Canea.

19. The removal of the prisoners to the "Hood" at Candia caused a noisy demonstration in the town, the mob threatening that they would sack the arsenal and Treasury if the prisoners were not given up in an hour and a-half, but the patrolling of the streets by regular Turkish troops and pickets of British troops and the landing of fifty blue-jackets from the "Hood" was sufficient to restore order in a short time.

20. As Ramazan was to commence the following day, and Her Majesty's ships "Astræa" and "Hazard" had steam and were already under orders to proceed to Candia, I sent them there so as to arrive in the early morning of the next day, as the presence of men-of-war off the town is well understood by the Cretans.

21. Candia has been quite quiet since these events, and I hope that the prompt action taken will have the effect of putting a stop to the raidings, as far as the Moslems are concerned, and deprive the Christians of their excuse for retaliating by counter-attacks on the Moslems.

I also hope that the change of Governors at Candia will result in the diminution of the robberies from untenanted houses, most of which (though I admit the sad and great provocation thereto) could, if sufficient energy were used, be stopped.

22. The Bishop of Canea having, in a letter addressed to Admiral Canevaro, made a statement that the Christian cemetery of Candia had been desecrated "under the eyes of the international troops," and the President of the Assembly having, in a similar letter, stated that "even the dead have not been spared—the tombs of the Christian cemetery having been dug up, profaned, and the bones scattered or sold for exportation," I called upon Colonel Sir H. Chermside for a report, which shows that this is purely imaginary and without foundation of truth. The cemetery referred to was certainly desecrated, but six months before there were any international troops in the island.

Fortunately, the cargo of bones, which were alleged to be the spoil of the cemetery, had not left Candia, and, after thorough examination, no trace of human remains was found.

I am told that this specious untruth is being promulgated in a printed pamphlet, and though it has been impossible to cope with all the mendacities with which Cretan politicians endeavour to enlist the sympathies of the European public and collect contributions from the charitable, I consider it desirable to herein emphatically contradict this charge against British troops of looking on with indifference at the desecration of cemeteries.

23. I propose to leave Crete in Her Majesty's ship "Revenge" to-morrow morning, Captain Arthur C. B. Bromley, of Her Majesty's ship "Hood," taking my place as Senior Naval Officer in Cretan waters.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. HARRIS.

(Inclosure 11.)

Minutes of Meeting of Admirals, January 12, 1898.

(No. 111.)

LE cuirassé Allemand "Oldenburg" est arrivé le 5 Janvier, et a débarqué à La Canée, le 7, un détachement de vingt marins et deux officiers, pour remplacer les hommes et l'officier que le croiseur "Kaiserin Augusta" a repris à son départ le 19 Novembre, 1897.

Le pavillon Allemand a été rehissé au bastion de La Canée.

Le Commandant Wahrendorff, de "l'Oldenburg," est présent pour la première fois à la séance des Amiraux.

Les Amiraux et Commandants Supérieurs informés du jugement rendu par la Commission Militaire Internationale, condamnant aux travaux forcés à vie le

nommé Zizidaki, Jean, décident que ce condamné sera provisoirement incarcéré à Spinalonga.

A bord du "Sicilia," à la Sude, le 12 Janvier, 1898.

Le Commandant Allemand,
(Signé) WAHRENDORFF.
Le Commandant Supérieur de la Grande-Bretagne,
(Signé) R. H. HARRIS.
Le Contre-Amiral Russe,
(Signé) P. ANDREEFF.
Le Contre-Amiral Français,
(Signé) ED. POTTIER.
Le Contre-Amiral Austro-Hongrois,
(Signé) v. HINKE.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

(Inclosure 12.)

Minutes of Meeting of Admirals, January 17, 1898.

(No. 112.)

LES Amiraux ayant été informés que des livres, venus de France à l'adresse d un libraire de La Canée, ont été saisis par la Douane de La Canée et envoyés à Constantinople, sous le prétexte que le contenu pouvait porter ombrage à la dignité des fonctionnaires Ottomans, décident :—

"Le droit de censure en ce qui concerne les publications qui arriveront dans l'île de Crète, sera exercé par le Gouverneur, lorsque ces écrits seront rédigés en langue Turque (ou Grecque ?) mais la même censure ne pourra être prononcée qu'avec le consentement du Commandant Militaire International lorsqu'il s'agira d'ouvrages écrits dans une autre langue."

D'après une lettre envoyée par le Colonel Chermside et communiquée par l'Amiral Harris, la situation à Candie deviendrait plus mauvaise.

Dans l'intérieur même de la ville, des Bachi-Bouzoucks armés se livrent au pillage et au voi, sans que le Gouverneur Ottoman de la province puisse les arrêter.

Déjà, les Amiraux ont signalé au Gouvernement Général le danger qui résulte de cette indifférence de l'autorité ; îls prient aujourd'hui leur doyen de demander au même Gouverneur-Général que Chifky Bey (?) Gouverneur de Candie, soit remplacé dans ses fonctions.

A bord du "Sicilia," à la Sude, le 17 Janvier, 1898.

Le Commandant Allemand,
(Signé) WAHRENDORFF.
Le Contre-Amiral Russe,
(Signé) P. ANDRÉEFF
Le Contre-Amiral de la Grande-Bretagn,
(Signé) R. H. HARRIS.
Le Contre-Amiral Français,
(Signé) ED. POTTIER.
Le Contre-Amiral Austro-Hongrois,
(Signé) T. W. LZEDINA.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

(Inclosure 13.)

Minutes of Meeting of Admirals, January 23, 1898.

(No. 113.)

DANS une lettre adressée aux Amiraux, le Gouverneur-Général les informe que vingt-quatre Bachi-Bouzoucks armés, qui franchissaient le cordon autour de Candie, ont été arrêtés par les troupes Ottomanes et incarcérés.

Le Gouverneur ayant demandé que ces vingt-quatre hommes soient conduits en prison

à La Canée, les Amiraux décident que par les soins de l'Amiral Anglais, vingt-d'entre eux y seront amenés et que les quatre autres, signalés comme leurs chefs par le Gouverneur lui-même, seront conduits à Spinalonga.

Dans la même lettre, son Excellence Ismaïl Bey demande que les troupes Anglaises fassent la police de la ville de Candie comme les troupes Internationales l'assument à La Canée.

Il lui sera répondu dans les termes suivants, au nom des Amiraux, par leur Président :—

"M. le Gouverneur-Général,

"J'ai l'honneur de vous accuser réception de la lettre dans laquelle votre Excellence m'annonce que vingt-quatre Musulmans ont été arrêtés par les troupes Ottomanes au moment où ils franchissaient, en armes, les cordons autour de Candie.

" Conformément à votre désir, ces individus seront incarcérés à La Canée et les quatre qui sont signalés comme les meneurs seront provisoirement détenus à Spinalonga.

" Leur arrestation même démontre que les troupes Ottomanes sont parfaitement suffisantes pour assurer la sécurité publique dans Candie, et leur tâche deviendra de plus en plus facile, à mesure que s'opérera le désarmement des irréguliers, ordonné en Septembre par votre Excellence.

" J'ajoute que ce désarmement ne peut avoir aucun inconvénient pour la population Musulmane, qui sera toujours protégée par les troupes régulières de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

" Les troupes Anglaises, si le besoin s'en faisait sentir, n'hésiteraient pas, d'ailleurs, à prêter leur concours pour rétablir l'ordre troublé, ou pour défendre les habitants de la ville d'attaquer du dehors, comme cela a été promis, mais ces éventualités ne se présenteront pas si votre Excellence, en faisant désarmer les Bachi-Bouzoucks, supprime l'unique cause pouvant provoquer les désordres ou des représailles de la part des Chrétiens insurgés.

" Or, l'arrestation de vingt-quatre d'entre eux, qui a vraisemblablement amené la saisie des armes dont ils étaient porteurs, est un commencement d'exécution des instructions données en Septembre, et il n'est pas douteux qu'avec la volonté ferme de les exécuter on n'arrive, à bref délai, au désarmement général de tous les irréguliers."

A bord du " Wien," à la Sude, le 23 Janvier, 1898.

Le Commandant Allemand,
(Signé) WAHRENDORFF.
Le Contre-Amiral Russe,
(Signé) P. ANDRÉEFF.
Le Contre-Amiral de la Grande-Bretagne,
(Signé) R. H. HARRIS
Le Contre-Amiral Français,
(Signé) ED. POTTIER.
Le Contre-Amiral Austro-Hongrois,
(Signé) v. HINKE.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

(Inclosure 14.)

Vice-Admiral Canevaro to Ismaïl Pasha.

M. le Gouverneur-Général de la Crète, *De la Suda, le* 19 *Janvier*, 1898.

DANS une lettre du 19 Juillet, j'appelais, au nom de mes collègues, l'attention de votre Excellence sur la grave responsabilité encourue par les autorités Ottomanes et les troupes Turques en n'essayant pas de prévenir certains désordres ou de réprimer les actes coupables commis sous leurs yeux.

Plusieurs fois, par la suite, j'ai eu l'honneur de vous adresser des communications analogues, et le 3 Septembre, notamment, je vous exposais le besoin urgent de désarmer tous les individus n'appartenant pas à l'armée régulière de Sa Majesté Impériale le Sultan.

A cette dernière lettre, vous avez bien voulu me répondre à la date du 10 Septembre, que tous les irréguliers, de Rethymo et de Candie, trouvés en armes, seraient désarmés par les soins des Gouverneurs de ces villes.

Il ne semble pas que cet ordre, donné depuis quatre mois, ait été entendu, au moins par le Gouverneur de Candie.

Les Amiraux sont informés, en effet, par une lettre du Colonel Chermside, que des Bachi-Bouzoucks armés sortent, par petits groupes en dehors du cordon militaire, se réunissent en bandes à un rendez-vous convenu, pillent les troupeaux des Chrétiens, dévastant ce qui reste de leurs propriétés, et rentrent en ville avec leur butin, sous les yeux des troupes Ottomanes chargées de la surveillance du cordon et, par suite, du désarmement de ces irréguliers.

Des déprédations du même genre se commettent dans l'intérieur de la ville, dans les maisons que les Chrétiens ont dû abandonner momentanément.

Il en résulte, de la part de ces derniers, des représailles dont on ne saurait s'étonner, et finalement, la situation sur ce point de l'île est loin d'être satisfisante.

Les Amiraux ne peuvent croire que le Gouverneur de Candie, qui dispose 5,000 hommes de troupe, ne puisse arriver à empêcher ces incursions de Bachi-Bouzoucks, en dehors du cordon militaire, et ces vols dans l'intérieur de la ville ; ils sont donc en droit de penser qu'il y a, de la part de ce Gouverneur, une grande négligence, sinon même de la mauvaise volonté, et ils vous demandent par mon intermédiaire de le remplacer par un fonctionnaire plus désireux de contribuer à l'œuvre de pacification que nous poursuivons en commun avec votre Excellence.

Agréez, &c.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien,
Doyen des Amiraux en Crète,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

(Inclosure 14 A.)

Ismaïl Pasha to Vice-Admiral Canevaro.

La Canée, le 21 *Janvier*, 1898.

Excellence,

J'AI l'honneur de vous accuser réception de votre lettre du 19 Janvier.

Le déplacement d'un Mutessarif (Gouverneur) est au-dessus de mes attributions, et relève de la Sublime Porte. J'ai donc fait part, par télégramme, à mon Gouvernement, du désir que vous m'avez exprimé.

Malgré cela, je crois nécessaire de vous exposer quelques considérations à cet égard. Les troupes Turques à Candie se réduisent à six bataillons de 600 hommes, dont un seulement est en ville et cinq sur le cordon. Ce dernier ayant une étendue minimum de 10 kilom., et nécessitant des groupements sur certains points importants, il n'est pas étonnant que quelques individus réussissent à le franchir ; cependant votre Excellence constatera qu'aussitôt le dernier incident connu, le Gouverneur est parvenu à arrêter vingt-quatre coupables, dont quelques excitateurs, et que ces individus seront transportés ici.

Quant au bataillon de la ville, il lui est matériellement impossible d'exercer une police rigoureuse sur une population disséminée de 50,000 émigrés. Je crois que le seul moyen efficace serait que les troupes Anglaises de Candie contribuent effectivement au maintien de l'ordre comme les troupes internationales le font dans toutes les autres localités occupées, où grace à leur concours on n'a plus à déplorer de tels méfaits. C'est ainsi qu'il pourrait être mis obstacle à la sortie d'hommes armés, à l'entrée de butin, ou aux déprédations intérieures que relate votre lettre, et que l'on pourrait même renforcer le cordon.

Je prie MM. les Amiraux de vouloir bien prendre en considération cette question de participation des troupes étrangères à la police de Candie, maintes fois et vainement solicitée par moi. Je suis persuadé qu'ainsi seulement la tranquillité renaîtra parmi une population lasse de privations, énervée par la longue et préjudicieuse attente d'une solution, et cela indépendamment du fonctionnaire Gouverneur.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Gouverneur-Général intérimaire,
(Signé) H. ISMAÏL.

Captain Bromley to Rear-Admiral Harris.

(A.)
(No. 6.)

Sir, "*Hood*," *at Candia, January* 12, 1898.

Since taking over the duties of Senior Naval Officer at Candia on the 9th ultimo, I have the honour to report that the ports of Agia-Pelagia and Rogia to the westward and the coast of Spinalonga to the eastward have occasionally been visited both by Her Majesty's ship "Scylla" and our picket-boat, where trade is carried on in a mild way, mostly in carrying caroub beans, oil, &c., to this port, where the dimes are duly paid to the Customs before landing.

2. With regard to the occasional raids that are made on shore between Moslems, Christians, and insurgents, I cannot but think that if proper precautions were taken on the part of the Turkish Governor, and that he had been more firmly advised and impressed with the responsibility which rested with him, considering he has under him upwards of 6,000 troops within the lines, that these raids should long since have been discontinued.

3. I am of opinion that he is harbouring a systematic band of robbers, murderers, so-termed Bashi-Bazouks, who are allowed to pass through the outposts at will, armed or otherwise, as I am led to understand that they are not allowed to pass through with arms, but I have no faith in the assertion.

4. These men are supposed to be the Moslem labouring class of the town—but I have my doubts—and who, passing through the lines either singly or by parties of twos or threes, meet at their appointed places, and make raids on the Christians and insurgents, stealing their sheep, mules, &c., returning with them at their will in the same way as they left, so as not to throw any light or suspicion on their movements.

5. The frequency with which I hear that officers are sniped at by men carrying rifles is a subject which, I think, should be met with immediate redress. Only lately a party of one medical officer and two officers of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers were sent out by order of the Officer Commanding the Troops on a cause of humanity, for the relief of the suffering and wounded Christians after a late raid by Moslems, and when not 400 yards outside the Turkish outposts they were fired upon from their left rear, the firing continuing for some ten to fifteen minutes. Whether these officers were carrying out the orders assigned to them or not I know not, but it is my belief that the firing must have originated from either the Turkish outpost sentries or Moslems harboured by the Turkish authorities, as I do not believe either Christians or insurgents would attempt to come within the radius from which the firing proceeded.

6. If this continual sniping is allowed to be carried on, sooner or later some serious accident will undoubtedly happen, causing, probably, loss of life, when serious complications may arise.

7. So far I cannot hear that any serious notice or redress has been obtained from the Turkish Governor, which, in my opinion, should immediately have been demanded.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. B. BROMLEY.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Senior British Naval Officer, Suda Bay.

(Telegraphic.) *Candia, December* 22, 1897.

Daylight this morning band of Moslems attacked caravan near Ghazi; several Christians reported killed, and number of mules and loads captured; two Moslems reported wounded.

Lieutenant-Governor was informed of project by me the previous night. Precautions unsuccessful.

Christian and Moslem aggressions increasing lately.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Candia, December 30, 1897.

Sir,

With reference to your Minute of the 28th December, forwarding No. 108 Séance of the Admirals, I have the honour to inclose correspondence between myself and the insurgents prior to its receipt; besides the animals stolen, one Moslem was killed and two were wounded; it is most unlikely that any reparation will be made, and the raid by Moslems of the 22nd December was a natural sequence. In this one Christian was killed and several were wounded, two of whom have since died.

As regards this, as you, Sir, are already aware, I warned the Governor, on the night of the 21st December, of the project, and he dispatched two horsemen to seek and to turn back the intending raiders if discovered. Athough my information proved to have been correct, the Governor was not successful in preventing the raid. I called on him twice on the 22nd, and pressed him to try and trace those concerned and the stolen property, which included over thirty animals. Orders were certainly given at the city gates, but no result has been obtained, indeed none was to be expected.

As mentioned in a private letter to you of the 23rd December, I had little doubt that in the present temper and state of the Moslem population the Governor was not prepared to press the matter.

I cannot admit that he was not in a position to obtain all information necessary for action in the sense of the Admirals' *procès-verbal*, and would suggest, for your consideration, representations on their part to the superior Turkish authorities at Canea.

The Governor's present position is undoubtedly a very difficult one, and in the case of the projected raids on Ghuves and Varvaros, of which he has been informed by me during the last month, nothing untoward has hitherto happened, but the supineness of the local authority in above matter has been very marked.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Signal from Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris, at Candia.

January 11, 1898.

At 5 P.M., 6·30 P.M., and 9 P.M. I have sent Governor details as to a projected Moslem raid eastward.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Senior British Naval Officer, Suda.

Candia, January 14, 1898.

(Telegraphic.)

Raid by Moslems to eastward, which we have been trying to prevent for some time, occurred yesterday. No details as to scale beyond fact some live stock lifted.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Candia, Crete, January 15, 1898.

Sir,

I have the honour to draw your attention to the fact that on two occasions lately the Local Government, although warned of impending excursions of small bodies of armed Mussulmans, was unable to prevent this, or, in the first case, to apprehend any of the raiders or booty. Scant warning was given in the first, but ample warning in the second case, including that to the outposts.

It is fair to say that, in far more numerous instances where warning has been given, nothing has snbsequently occurred.

In view of these occurrences, I spoke to the Governor in the sense of inclosed, of which I left him a copy.

I also took the occasion of a call on me by Lieutenant-Colonel Arif Bey, Aide-de-camp to his Highness Djevad Pasha, Turkish Commander-in-chief in Crete, to speak to him in the same sense.

The Governor, I may point out, would at most be allowed to give a decision on point 1, those on points 2 and 3 are matters for superior authority. If, therefore, the Council of Admirals thinks representations on their part expedient on all or any of the first three points, the decision will be dependent on this, or on any spontaneous action the Turkish authorities at Canea may decide on.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Propositions by Colonel Chermside, January 15, 1898.

1. Que le port d'armes à Candie soit interdit dorénavant à toute personne qui n'est pas dans l'emploi du Gouvernement comme homme armé.

2. C'est une question si l'on doit continuer la permission du port des armes aux "forces auxiliaires" vu le fait qu'ils ne se trouvent ni à même d'empêcher le passage à travers la ligne des avant-postes de marauder armés, ni de les attraper sur leur retour d'excursions hostiles.

3. Le Gouvernement fera bien, en vue de son propre prestige, non seulement de prohiber le port d'armes mais de les ramasser et emmagasiner en dépôts, démontrant ainsi qu'il est parfaitement à même, dans les circonstances politiques actuelles, de maîtriser et contrôler la population Musulmane.

4. Je suis parfaitement prêt, de ma part, d'avertir les insurgés Chrétiens, tant en personne que par écrit, que dorénavant aucun Musulman, à l'exception de ceux armés dans le service du Gouvernement, n'aura le droit de porter les armes, que si des empiètements par des bergers et des troupeaux arrivent, ils ne doivent point s'efforcer d'emporter ces derniers ni de tirer sur les bergers, à moins que ces derniers sont armés et tirent eux-mêmes; que si des Musulmans armés dépassent la ligne des avant-postes et attaquent les Chrétiens ceux-ci seront justifiés à riposter, mais que si les Chrétiens emporteront de nouveau du bétail comme ils ont fait, l'été dernier, au commencement de la défense générale pour les Musulmans de porter des armes, la résponsabilité en retombera sur eux avec le résultat probable que l'on permettra de nouveau aux Musulmans le port général des armes.

(Inclosure 15.)

Captain Bromley to Rear-Admiral Harris.

(B.)
(No. 10.)
Sir, "*Hood*," *at Candia, January* 24, 1898.

IN accordance with your telegraphic orders received on the 22nd instant, I embarked twenty-four Moslem prisoners at 1 A.M. on the 23rd.

2. At 11 A.M. on that day Colonel Sir H. Chermside requested me to send an armed party of fifty men to guard the harbour, as symptoms of an organized riot were being prepared. The guard was at once landed, and also an armed boat sent.

3. At 11·45 A.M. I landed, and interviewed Colonel Sir H. Chermside on the subject. It would appear that on the Moslem population discovering in the forenoon that the prisoners had been removed to the "Hood" in the night at once closed their shops, and organized themselves into massed bodies, hooting and yelling, demanding the release of the prisoners, or they would do for the Christians in the town.

4. The Turkish Governor at once patrolled the streets with his troops, and every precaution was taken by Colonel Sir H. Chermside in placing a cordon of the Royal Welsh Fusiliers for the protection of the Consular and Christian community.

5. This apparently had the desired effect in quelling the Moslems, who towards the evening dispersed.

6. At 7 P.M. I withdrew the guard from the harbour, leaving an armed boat there for the night.

7. This morning everything appears to have righted itself, shops being opened, and business carried on as usual.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. B. BROMLEY.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Candia, Crete, January 26, 1898.

Sir,

In answer to your telegram of this date, I have the honour to report as follows:—

Twenty-four Moslem prisoners for raiding were placed on board Her Majesty's ship "Hood" at 1·30 A.M. on the 23rd instant. In the forenoon Moslems closed their shops, and made noisy unarmed demonstration. Six delegates were sent to me to ask for release of prisoners. This was refused.

Owing to menacing attitude of population, the Senior Naval Officer sent armed boats, and landed fifty blue-jackets for the harbour.

Two British soldiers were placed in each Consulate, and regular guards at the Telegraph Office, Austrian Post Office, and another building.

A guard of forty rank and file was held as reserve at the telegraph detachment.

Two main guards were also stationed at two points at night, and an armed picquet boat in the harbour.

Armed parties patrolled the streets.*

The Maxim gun detachment was posted in the centre of the town.

A cordon was drawn round the quarter in which the Consulates are situated, and no armed person allowed to circulate.

The naval guards were withdrawn at 7 P.M.

The Turkish guards in town were doubled.

The guards and picquets remain under arms up till the present time.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

(Inclosure 16.)

The President of Cretan Assembly to the Greek Minister of Foreign Affairs.

Akrotiri, Crète, le 3 (15) *Janvier*, 1898.

Excellence,

D'APRÈS les informations des journaux sur le projet des Ambassadeurs, la Crète, au lieu de devenir complètement autonome sous la suzeraineté du Sultan, resterait une province privilégiée sous sa souveraineté, et des troupes Ottomanes continueraient à y stationner.

La nouvelle d'une telle décision, contraire aux déclarations des Grandes Puissances et de la Sublime Porte elle-même, produit une irritation croissante parmi la population, exaspérée déjà par une trop longue expectative et par les souffrances qu'elle lui impose.

Nous nous refusons à croire à une telle solution. Néanmoins, effrayés par la perspective qu'elle ouvrirait devant ce malheureux pays, nous ne pouvons que protester respectueusement contre toute décision, qui, après tant de ruines et de souffrances, laisserait la question où elle était il y a un an.

Veuillez, &c.

Le Président,

(Signé) J. C. SPHAKIANAKIS.

Le Secrétaire,

(Signé) S. PAPANTONAKIS.

(Inclosure 17.)

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Candia, Crete, January 8, 1898.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to call the attention of the Council of Admirals to the following:—

Under the pressure of want, misery, and the uncertainty of their future, refugee Moslem tenants of the houses of absent Christians are making away with Christian property. This has probably been the case during nearly the whole of the past year,

* Three parties of 1 officer and 50 men each.

but I have reason to suppose that it is going on more rapidly now. The local judicial authorities, acting under instructions from Canea, do not, in the absence of legal Tribunals, take much notice of these cases, and it is beyond their competence to push them home.

The view of the Turkish Government is that it is no use filling the prisons with persons whom you cannot, under the existing laws and Constitution, try and sentence.

Under these circumstances, my own action is necessarily confined to registering the cases, to bringing them to the notice of the Government and inviting its inquiry, and to sending a lithographed form to the petitioners, requesting them to fill in details which may assist in a possible future investigation of their complaints.

I, further, have encouraged for many months past the removal of furniture under escort and its storage in a depôt under European guard.

Investing the Governor with Magisterial powers of punishment, a course I have so often suggested, would not meet this class of cases, which are usually partly civil, partly criminal in their nature, are of that of breach of trust, are mostly complicated, and in which much of the most important evidence is usually wanting. Neither would an International Tribunal, constituted as that at Canea to decide criminal cases, or others, between Ottoman subjects and foreigners, or to try Ottomans for serious attempts at disturbance of the peace, meet the case.

I imagine that where losses have occurred the chances of the Christian prosecutors in future recovering serious compensation are very remote; the desideratum is to put a stop to it.

The Council might, perhaps, approve of informing the head-quarter Turkish Government of its serious responsibility in the matter, and inviting its initiative.

There is a Local Commission here for housing the refugees. I have long since suggested that Delegates from it or Government employés should inspect all houses of absent Christians, verify what property is in them, and affix seals to locked and sealed rooms, but the normal supineness of this Oriental Government is so much increased by the actual state of affairs, that I very much doubt whether this has seriously been done.

I have spent—I may say wasted—so much time and energy over this matter, in the face of the apathy of the Christian community and the local authority—a matter in which I have, of course, no direct responsibility, as in that of the maintenance of public order—that I think, if it is worth making any further representations, these would best be made by the Admirals at Canea.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

(Inclosure 18.)

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Sir, *Candia, Crete, January* 18, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th January and its inclosure, I have the honour to forward the following observations :—

There are here, or due here, 5,540 sacks of flour—sufficient for two months' supply.

The Moslem–Cretan Relief Fund amounted, I believe, to 7,790*l*., and has been supplemented by the Ottoman Government as stated.

Relief will be required on the same scale as at present, in any case, until the end of June, and, after the harvest of the area sown in the environs, a great number of those in receipt of relief will still require it, as they have no share or interest in the future crops. It appears to me of some importance to make the Turkish authorities realize the responsibility for the feeding of their Moslem subjects, and that it is a serious and imminent one which cannot be evaded.

Many of the 2,944 people struck off the relief list are in great want, which is now most widespread. I do not consider it a politic measure depriving them of relief in mid-winter, and it has added to the discontent and general difficulties of the situation. The Governor agrees with me on this point.

No gendarmes are now in receipt of relief. They only receive a month's pay at

very rare intervals, and *do not receive a ration.** As they are under the Turkish War Office, though on a different Budget, it might be possible for the Turkish military authorities to arrange to issue them a ration to be deducted from their salary.

The amount of the 3 per Cent. Surplus Custom Tax of Candia is forwarded to Canea. For Candia alone, exclusive of Sitia, &c., it exceeds 200*l.* per month, and for the past four months has averaged 360*l.*† If this sum, or a portion of it, was applied to paying half the monthly pay of the gendarmes, as at Canea, it would be an appreciable assistance to the numerous difficulties of the Local Government.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

(Inclosure 19.)

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Sir, *Candia, Crete, January* 22, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th January *re* the state of the disused Greek cemetery, I have the honour to reply :—

1. The statement as to the profanation of the cemetery, rifling the graves, breaking the tombstones and breaching the walls is correct, and was embodied in the Report of the Local Consular Body in October 1896.

2. The Bishop must be well aware of this, and the bad faith of his statement of its having occurred under the eyes of the international troops is evident.

The desecration did not take place since the foreign occupation, as that of two monasteries and burial-grounds near Canea, on which occasions I collected the "Ikons," had them transported to the towns, and delivered them to the Bishop.

The Report of October 1896 states some sixty-seven (or sixty-eight) graves to have been rifled and desecrated, and that remains the case.

3. The Consular corps examined the cemetery on the 21st, and have ascertained that some damage has occurred since their Report of 1896.

4. I examined this cemetery in March 1897, and the only difference I have since perceived is the removal last autumn of the broken gate and possibly of a small amount of broken stone. The breaches in the walls since October 1896 were made prior to end of March 1897.

5. As regards the statement of shipment of human bones, I informed the Governor and the Senior Naval Officer last week in the sense of the attached statement.

The former had an examination of the bones at the Custom-house by medical officers, and was, I think, present himself.

No human bones were found.

Senior Naval Officer and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul examined the vessel with the same result.

I informed both of the presence of the "Sinope" at Suda in case the Admirals or the Turkish authorities wish to examine her cargo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Colonel Sir H. Chermside.

Sir, *Candia, October* 6, 1896.

I have the honour to state that the old Christian cemetery, situated in a distance of only ten minutes from this fortress, has been profaned by Mussulmans during the last disturbances, and last Sunday all the Consular Body visited it, and we found that a small house where they used to deposit boxes containing the bones of the dead was forced and the boxes taken away; and as the Christian guard of the cemetery told us the bones were scattered outside the said house, and that on the preceding day the guard had gathered the bones and put them again into the said place by order of the Archbishop.

* The Acting Governor-General's letter is in error on this point.—H. C.

† September, 30,771 prs. 6 p.; October, 26,307 prs. 2 p.; November, 64,221 prs. 8 p.; December, 47,121 prs. 1 p. (110 prs. = 1*l.*)

We accounted all the tombs built with stones in the cemetery, and we found them to be sixty-eight, all of which have been profaned with the exception of only one tomb, and those which are not built on stone but are dug in the ground into wooden coffins.

The crosses on the graves were all broken and the tombs all opened, some entirely and some partly, and near the entrance a place where they used to keep the dead on the first night was unroofed.

The door of the entrance was not entirely broken, but the Mussulmans opened a hole in the wall of the inclosure of the cemetery, and they entered into the cemetery and introduced also into it cattle, as we found in it much manure of cattle.

(Signed) L. A. CALOCHERINO.

Captain Bromley to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Sir, "*Hood*," *at Suda Bay, January* 30, 1898.

Having received this communication on board Her Majesty's ship "Hood" on the 17th January, 1898, sent by Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside, without any notation, I have the honour to forward it for your information, observing that I inspected the cargo of this vessel, together with Surgeon J. Mowat, of this ship. No trace of any human bones was discovered in the hold.

I consider this letter a trumped-up accusation against the Ottoman merchants, who informed me that the cargo was to be sent to Smyrna for shipment to Europe, where a heavy penalty is inflicted for landing human bones, and, naturally, it would be against their interest to include human bones in such a consignment.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. B. BROMLEY.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Colonel Sir H. Chermside.

Sir, *Candia, January* 17, 1898.

I have the honour to report that there is in Candia Harbour the Ottoman ship "Antelip Bahri," Captain Hassan Mustafa, which has loaded bones, rags, and copper and the half of the cargo, and will go to Suda Bay in order to take the cargo of bones of the Ottoman ship "Sinopi," loaded by Ratzi Arpatzaki and Hussein Kiourtaki, which suffered and took refuge in Suda. The Christians who informed me beg you will kindly order the necessary steps here and in Suda through the Admirals, to find out if these cargoes contain human bones, in which case to punish the culprits.

I have. &c.

(Signed) L. A. CALOCHERINO.

P.S.—This letter was received on board Her Majesty's ship "Hood" on the 17th January, 1898, having been sent by Colonel Sir H. Chermside, without any notation or remarks.

(Signed) A. C. B. BROMLEY.

Telegrams to and from the Commander-in-chief.

To Commander-in-chief, January 4, 1898.

"Rossia" sailed for China.

From Commander-in-chief (No. 4), January 12, 1898.

Following from Admiralty:—

"Her Majesty's Government has granted 400*l.* for alleviation of distress in Crete. Inform Senior Naval Officer that he may draw on Chief Clerk, Foreign Office, to that amount."

Letter follows.

To Commander-in-chief, January 22, 1898.

Governor of Candia, fearing grave disturbances at commencement of Ramazan on account of twenty-two prisoners imprisoned for raiding, asks, through Colonel Chermside, for them to be removed.

I have ordered "Hood" to receive them pending question of their disposal by the Admirals.

To Commander-in-chief, January 23, 1898.

Unarmed demonstration at Candia on behalf of prisoners who are now on board "Hood." Fifty men landed from "Hood" at request of Colonel Chermside, and manned and armed boats.

"Astræa" and "Hazard" have been ordered to Candia.

To Commander-in-chief, January 24, 1898.

Candia resumed normal state. Further disturbances not apprehended.

Telegrams to the Admiralty.

To Admiralty, January 23, 1898.

Unarmed demonstration at Candia on behalf of prisoners who are now on board "Hood." Fifty men landed from "Hood" at request of Chermside, and manned and armed boats. "Astræa" and "Hazard" have been ordered to Candia.

To Admiralty, January 24, 1898.

Candia resumed normal state. Further disturbances not apprehended.

(Inclosure 20 B.)

Telegrams to and from Colonel Sir H. Chermside and the Senior Naval Officer, both at Candia.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 9, 1898.

IS there any truth in rumour that small party sent out by you was fired at by armed Moslems? If so, what steps have been taken by you to obtain satisfaction?

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 9, 1898.

Small party, after passing through Turkish outposts, was fired on from left rear; interchange of shots between Moslems and Christians had been going on for some hours. Turkish regular post at once sounded cease fire, and informed Governor, who sent explanations. I am quite satisfied that the party referred to was not snfficiently conspicuous, either by flag or British uniform. They returned next day without any incident.

On 8th January telegram from Turkish outposts reported three Englishmen—believed to be officers—passed beyond outpost towards Arkhanes, and drew fire of Christian outposts. "Hood" reports these were naval officers.

Standing military orders since commencement of occupation forbid visiting outposts without guide, and passing beyond without permission.

A Moslem shepherd was killed at the same place yesterday.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 16, 1898.

Raid by Moslems to eastward, which we have been trying to prevent for some time, occurred yesterday (13th January). No details as to scale beyond fact some live-stock lifted.

Warning sent to Christians of intended raid arrived too late. They report one lad killed, considerable quantity of sheep lifted.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 19, 1898.

A few days since, three Moslems, who went out to inspect their properties, were killed or captured by Christians.

Later, on 13th, a cattle raid by Moslems occurred. Some of them have been apprehended.

Last night another raid was projected, and Turkish military authorities displayed considerable energy to frustrate it.

Governor reports Christians last night attacked regular Turkish post to east, and to-day are attacking regular post to south in some force.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 20, 1898.

Sixteen Moslem raiders and a few sheep taken by Turkish troops yesterday. Twenty-two in all now prisoners; propose to send these to Canea.

Four Turkish auxiliaries of Finika post wounded during Christian attack yesterday.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 20, 1898.

Séance 112.

Carriage of arms in town has not been permitted since commencement of occupation; penultimate paragraph evidently based on misunderstanding or mistranslation. As regards last paragraph, beg to refer to my Report of 23rd October.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 20, 1898.

Send prisoners to Canea by first man-of-war. Inform Senior Naval Officer.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 22, 1898.

Biliotti has wired Vice-Consul concerning state of old Greek cemetery.

On arrival here last March we found gate broken, walls breached, graves rifled, remains scattered, tombstones broken. Only noticeable difference, disappearance gate last autumn, and, possibly, small amount broken stone. New cemetery intact.

Governor, fearing possible demonstration concerning raider prisoners at commencement of Ramazan, wishes them removed at once, and he asks that they may be received on board "Hood" to-night. If you approve, can you send for them, and instruct S.N.O. to receive them temporarily.

To Senior Naval Officer, January 22, 1898.

Communicate with Chermside and sent for prisoners and received them on board "Hood."

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 22, 1898.

"Hood" will receive prisoners.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 23, 1898.

The four most culpable prisoners are to be sent to Spinalonga in French man-of-war "Galilée" on Thursday or Friday morning: the others are to be sent to Canea on Tuesday by the "Stromboli;" if possible the attested declaration of the Lieutenant-Governor or yourself as to names and offences of prisoners should accompany them.

Communicate to Senior Naval Officer.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 23, 1898.

Twenty-four Moslem prisoners placed on board "Hood" last night. Moslems to-day closed shops and made noisy unarmed demonstration. They sent me six delegates, whom I saw in Captain Bromley's presence. I declined to recommend release of prisoners, although some may prove innocent.

Owing to menacing attitude of population "Hood" sent in armed boats and landed guard of fifty for harbour at my request.

Have placed two British soldiers in each Consulate.

We have also 180 infantry on duty in streets besides Governor's large force of Turkish troops.

Bromley agrees it might be well to remove prisoners to Canea if convenient, their presence may maintain excitement.

To Senior Naval Officer, January 23, 1898.

"Hazard" and "Astræa" are ordered to Kandia.

Inform Chermside.

From Senior Naval Officer, January 23, 1898.

Twenty-four Moslem prisoners received on board at 1 A.M. this morning. On the Moslem population discovering they had been removed to "Hood" shops were closed and an agitated mob was demanding their release, in consequence of which Chermside requested me to land a guard of fifty men with armed boats for protection of harbour. In consultation with him am withdrawing this guard 7 P.M., leaving an armed boat. So far all is quiet, but all precautions are taken ashore.

To Senior Naval Officer, January 23, 1898.

"Astræa" sails 11 P.M., "Hazard" midnight.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 23, 1898.

Rumour that Governor is to be replaced by General from Canea.
We have been working together for ten months, and he has acted so loyally to us that I should feel great chagrin in seeing him replaced at present. Local Notables have asked me to make this representation, which I fully indorse.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 24, 1898.

Do you desire your telegram of 23rd January relative to Chefki to be laid before Council of Admirals, as it is marked "Private"?

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 24, 1898.

Please make any use of my private telegram you consider expedient, but I understand that rumour mentioned by me is now officially confirmed.
Town has resumed normal state. Further disturbances not apprehended.

From Senior Naval Officer, January 24, 1898.

All quiet, guard withdrawn.
Suggest "Astræa," "Hazard" return to-morrow morning.
Shall I send prisoners to Suda in "Astræa."

To Senior Naval Officer, January 24, 1898.

"Astræa" and "Hazard" return to Suda Bay to-morrow forenoon. "Astræa bring all the prisoners.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, January 25, 1898.

"Astræa" sailed with prisoners. The four principal ones were indicated.
Owing to change of Governor and change of time of departure, lists asked for were not complete. Governor has been requested to telegraph them to Canea, and inform me that he has done so.

To Senior Naval Officer, January 25, 1898.

Inform "Stromboli" by signal, if possible, that Admiral Canevaro orders her to proceed without anchoring off Kandia, the prisoners having come to Suda in "Astræa." If signal not practicable use steam boat

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(Inclosure 41.)

DISTRIBUTION of International Forces in Crete, January 30, 1898.

Place.	Italian.	Austrian.	French.	Russian.	German.	British.
Canea	2 companies infantry .. 1 battalion Bersaglieri 1 battery of 6 guns 15 Carabineers 60 sailors	2 companies infantry ..	6 companies infantry .	2 companies infantry ..	. .	"Astræa." 200 infantry.
Suda Bay	"Sardegna" .. .. "Stromboli" "Aretusa" "Etruria"	"Wien" .. .. "Kaiser F. Josef" "Leopard" "Tiger" "Magnet" 3 companies infantry (1 at Izzedin)	"Amiral Charner" .. "Chanzy" "Faucon"	"Alexander II" .. "Nicholai I" "Groziastchy" "Possadnik" Torpedo-boats 119 and 120	"Oldenburg" ..	"Revenge" (sails 31st January for Malta). "Hood." "Hebe." "Hazard."
Rethymo	.	..	..	6 companies infantry .. 6 guns	..	.
Candia	..	..	..	..	..	"Anson. 930 infantry. 4 machine-guns.
Spinalonga . ..	3 companies infantry ..	..	150 sailors	..	.	.
Sitia	..	..	"Galilée" .. .. 2 companies infantry	..	..	..
Hierapetra	2 companies infantry 2 guns 7 Carabineers 24 sailors	..	..	..	..	..

No. 42.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 3.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 24, 1898.

ON the 16th instant Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino sent to me a copy of a letter, in which a Greek priest of Candia reported that the Greek disused Christian cemetery of that town had been profaned, a skull and some bones of the same corpse soiled, and the bones contained in the common grave of the same cemetery sold by Moslems for commercial puposes.

On the 18th the Greek Bishop of Canea transmitted to the Admirals and to the Consuls copy of this same letter, the contents of which led to believe that this was the first profanation, and that it had taken place since the foreign occupation. In any case, the Greek Bishop of Canea taking that view of the incident, which he is perfectly aware not to be in conformity with facts, indulges in exaggeration, and consequent vituperation against foreigners in a letter herewith inclosed, in copy and translation, which he addressed to the Admirals and Consuls on the 18th instant. However, with reference to my despatch No. 89 of the 10th October, 1896, your Lordship will observe that, at that time, the cemetery in question had been almost entirely wrecked, in consequence of the Christians having burnt two or three wooden mausoleums of Sautons, and having broken the stele [?] of other Moslem tombs in the districts of Candia.

The Vice-Consuls in that town, by directions of their Superintending Consuls in Canea, having visited and reported in 1896 on the profanation which had taken place at some unknown period before the month of October in that year, we again directed them to inspect the same cemetery and ascertain its present condition as compared to that of two years ago. I have the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of the despatch which Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino addressed to me on the 6th October, 1896, and of the telegram which he has now sent me in answer to my present request; also of a second telegram he forwarded to me in consequence of information furnished to him by Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside.

There appears to be no doubt that a second profanation has taken place in the disused cemetery of Candia, and that part of the bones in the common grave have disappeared. As I had occasion to report more than once since the year 1889, the scattering about and throwing away of the bones found in Christian tombs is a usual practice on the part of Mussulmans during disturbances.

The profanation of the Christian cemetery in Candia is not a singular instance during the present disturbances, all the cemeteries in the surrounding villages of Canea having been subject to the same fate. But the profanation in Candia is the only one on the subject of which so much noise is made. However, there is not the slightest proof of its having taken place since the foreign occupation, and the Vice-Consuls failed to discover any soiled skull or bones.

It is as well to explain that the bones which are said to have been sold for commercial purposes consist of small fragments picked up in digging fresh tombs in parts of the cemetery where dead were buried many years previously. These fragments, which I think are quite useless for trade, are put in boxes and deposited in a common grave. In the year 1896 the contents of the common grave of the disused cemetery of Candia were scattered about, and such remains as were put back are now said to be short of 50 quintals ($2\frac{3}{4}$ tons) according to Mr. Calocherino, and of 28 quintals ($1\frac{3}{4}$ tons) according to the French, who is also Station Vice-Consul.

Be this as it may, two ships loaded with bones, which were supposed to contain the human remains which disappeared from the Greek cemetery, were inspected—the one in Candia by the mnnicipal and military doctors, and also by the surgeon of Her Majesty's ship "Hood;" and the other in Suda Bay, where she had taken refuge owing to bad weather, by the doctors of the international squadron, but no trace of human bones were found in either of these ships.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 42.

Bishop Nikiforos to M. Blanc.

(Translation.)

Canea, Crete, January 6 (18), 1898.

Mr. Consul-General,

I HAVE received, yesterday evening, the inclosed report from the priest, Titus T. Konomou.

I inclose it for your information, and that of your colleagues, and beg to point out, with indescribable grief, that at no time under the rash military power of the Janissaries they were allowed by them to perpetrate such horrible acts as those which are now committed under the eyes of the international forces of occupation by the Mussulmans in Candia.

Being under the necessity to protest against the forbearance of such unheard-of and inhuman profanations, I beg at the same time, in the name of philanthropy, to take pity, and not to allow the Turks to commit without check and fear such acts of wickedness against the unfortunate Candia Christians, alive or dead.

(Signed) NIKIFOROS,
Bishop of Kydonia and Apokorona.

Inclosure 2 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Consul Sir A. Biliotti.

(No. 56.)

Candia, October 6, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that the old Christian cemetery, situated in a distance of only ten minutes from this fortress, has been profaned by Mussulmans during the last disturbances, and last Sunday all the Consular Body visited it, and we found that a small house, where they used to deposit boxes containing the bones of the dead, was forced, and the boxes taken away, and, as the Christian guard of the cemetery told us, the bones were scattered outside the said house, and that, on the preceding day, the guard had gathered the bones and put them again into the said place by order of the Archbishop. We counted all the tombs built with stones in the cemetery, and we found them to be sixty-eight, all of whom have been profaned, with the exception of only one tomb, and those which are not built on stone, but are buried in the ground into wooden coffins. The crosses on the graves were all broken, and the tombs all opened—some entirely and some partly—and near the entrance a place where they used to keep the dead on the first night was unroofed.

The door of the entrance was not entirely broken, but the Mussulmans opened a hole in the wall of the inclosure of the cemetery, and they entered into the cemetery, and introduced also into it cattle, as we found in it much manure of cattle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. A. CALOCHERINO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Consul Sir A. Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.)

Candia, January 21, 1898.

TO-DAY I, with all my colleagues, visited old Greek cemetery. We ascertained that the iron gate is now carried off, and the outside wall demolished in three small parts; two-thirds of the human bones deposited there. Approximately 50 quintals are now missing from the bones depôt, from which the corner stones are taken off. The stone-built graves opened and profaned in 1896 are now more damaged, and the stones on the surface of graves are now broken, and some carried off. We found no gendarmes watching cemetery.

Inclosure 4 in No. 42.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Consul Sir A. Biliotti.

(Telegraphic.) *Candia, January* 22, 1898, 11·55 A.M.

COLONEL CHERMSIDE informs me that, prior to arrival of British troops here last March, the old Greek cemetery had been completely wrecked, graves rifled, tombstones broken, walls breached. He sees no difference in its present state, except that the broken iron gate disappeared last autumn, and possibly some broken stone has been removed.

The new Greek cemetery is intact.

No. 43.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 11.)

(No. 4.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 26, 1898.

ON the information furnished to me by Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino, and obtained from other sources, I have the honour to report the following incidents which have taken place in Candia within the last fortnight.

The Mussulmans in that town having projected a sheep raid in the night of the 16th instant, the Turkish military authorities displayed considerable energy and prevented it.

According to the Governor, during the same night the Christians attacked the Turkish post to the east of the town, which is held by regular troops.

On the 19th the Christians attacked the position of Finikia, which is likewise held by Turkish regulars, and four irregulars are reported to have been wounded. The Christian casualties are unknown.

On the same date, Mussulmans, having made a sheep raid near the village of Varvarono, twenty-four of the band and some of the stolen sheep were apprehended, and brought into the town by Turkish troops.

These prisoners, among whom are Samis, Vachitakis, Stravalemis, and Ahmed Bahaloros, who are considered to be Chiefs, having been embarked on board Her Majesty's ship "Hood" for conveyance to Canea, where it was intended to try them, a deputation of Mussulmans begged Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside to cause their being released.

Their demand not having been complied with, about 1,500 unarmed Mussulmans made, on the 23rd instant, a demonstration in front of the Government House, threatening to attack and plunder the Christian quarter if the twenty-four prisoners were not landed to be kept in the Government prison on shore. All the shops were closed, and Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside immediately took the necessary steps to protect the Christian quarter, forming a military cordon with British soldiers and blue-jackets, and proceeded to the Government House. He stationed guards at all the Consulates, at the Telegraph Office, and inspected personally, also, in the night, the execution of all these measures, by which he attracted the general gratitude of the Christians in Candia. The Turkish troops also garrisoned the town, and two field-guns were placed in position near the Government House.

The Mussulman mob retired peacefully after having sent a deputation to the Governor to submit their grievances, which have not been communicated to me by Mr. Calocherino, but are embodied in the inclosed copy of a telegram sent by the French Vice-Consul of Candia, who is, at the same time, Italian Vice-Consul to his superiors in Canea.

The day following the town was perfectly quiet, and the shops were opened as usual.

The forementioned four Chiefs are to be sent to Spinalonga Fort, where are imprisoned other Cretan Mussulmans and Christians. The other twenty prisoners are to be kept in the Canea prisons.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 43.

M. Ittar to M. Blanc.

Candie, le 23 *Janvier*, 1898, 6·45 *soir.*

(Télégraphique.)

RÉUNION se dissout pacifiquement après avoir envoyé députation exprimer plaintes, tandis qu'insurgés violent impunément zone neutre, préjudice vie et troupeaux Musulmans, on use d'autre part mesures de rigueur contre ces derniers réduits à l'extrême misère par le fait des insurgés si parfois sont obligés de faire razzias pour maintenir vie. Garnisons Anglaise et Turque sous les armes veillent au bon ordre.

No. 44.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 5.)

Canea, Crete, January 26, 1898.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of Petition which the President of the Christian Assembly addressed on the 23rd instant to Admiral Canevaro as doyen of the Council of Admirals, and of which a copy was handed at the same time to each Consul.

It is strange that this paper, which is a regular accusation written in very bitter terms, should have been sent in just as the Turkish authorities, pressed by Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside, displayed unusual energy in preventing raids, and in apprehending their authors. It is, furthermore, strange that the paper in question, although dated the 23rd, was only handed to its several addresses when it was fully known by everyone in and round Canea that a demonstration of the Mussulman mob had taken place in Candia, and that it had been so energetically and successfully repressed as to attract the gratitude of the Christians towards the British force in that town and Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside.

It would almost appear as if there was a haste, before the facts taking place would prevent the President to do so, to express in discourteous language statements which, when they are not wholly without foundation, such as the 2,000 foreign troops stationed in Candia, are so exaggerated as to distort the truth. The incidents which are in conformity with it are nothing more than those which occurred in the other places occupied by foreign troops. This fact can be ascertained by comparing the details contained in that Petition with the reports concerning Rethymo and Candia, but they appear to acquire exceptional importance in Candia, simply because British troops are occupying that town.

This paper may be considered as the culminating point of the intrigues, which have been uninterrupedly carried on against our officers since the occupation of Crete by the international forces, and it is possible that the parties resorting to such proceedings may have some political aim in view, which is promoted by these repeated attacks on the British name in Crete.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure in No. 44.

The President of the Cretan Assembly to Vice-Admiral Canevaro.

Plakoures, le 11 (23) *Janvier*, 1898.

Excellence,

LES nouvelles qui continuent à nous arriver de Candie nous obligent d'attirer la sérieuse attention du Haut Conseil des Amiraux sur l'état de choses vraiment déplorable qu'on a laissé se développer dans cette ville et à ses environs.

Les rapports détaillés que les habitants Chrétiens aussi bien que les Agents Consulaires n'ont cessé de transmettre au Conseil des Amiraux et aux Consuls, sur les crimes et méfaits de toute sorte, commis par la populace Musulmane, nous dispensent d'en répéter ici l'énumération, qui serait d'ailleurs trop longue.

Il suffit seulement de rappeler :—

1. Qu'on compte déjà par centaines les maisons et magasins des Chrétiens, vidés plus ou moins ouvertement de leur contenu, au su et au vu des autorités locales.

2. Qu'on a dû transporter aux Consulats et à l'église, pour les soustraire à la rapine, le mobilier et les marchandises, qui y ont pu échapper.

3. Qu'on a commencé à arracher la boiserie même et les pierres taillées de beaucoup de bâtiments.

4. Que, dans l'aire du cordon militaire il ne reste, dans les propriétés des Chrétiens, pas un arbre debout, pas une trace des cultures.

5. Que des bandes de malfaiteurs, s'organisant sous les yeux des autorités, font des incursions dans l'intérieur, tuent, pillent, et reviennent se mettre en sûreté, avec leur butin, derrière les remparts de la ville, gardés par les troupes Turques et Internationales.

6. Que toute communication entre la ville et l'intérieur est, depuis douze mois, complètement interrompue, ce qui a pour conséquence une misère extrême parmi les habitants des districts environnants.

7. Que les morts mêmes n'ont été épargnés, les tombeaux du cimetière Chrétien ayant été dernièrement fouillés, profanés, et les ossements dispersés, ou vendus pour l'exportation.

Ce n'est pas, cependant, la force qui manque aux autorités de Candie pour mettre un terme à un tel état de choses. La garnison se compose, en effet, de 4,000 réguliers Turcs et de 1,500 irréguliers et gendarmes. En outre, il y a les troupes d'occupation internationale, qui se sont élevées parfois à plus de 2,000 hommes.

Or, voici ce qu'on peut constater au sujet de cette force. Les gendarmes participent aux déprédations dans l'intérieur de la ville ; les irréguliers font partie des bandes, qui entreprennent les incursions et dévastent les alentours : les troupes régulières servent d'appui à ces bandes, toutes les fois que les Chrétiens parviennent à les mettre en juste et à les presser de trop près. Quant aux troupes d'occupation Européenne, nous sommes obligés de constater avec regret qu'après avoir proclamé qu'on mettait la ville sous leur protection, on a adopté le système de les faire assister en spectateurs désintéressés, au milieu de ces scènes de déprédation et de crime.

On n'a pas voulu adopter à Candie la manière de procéder, qui a eu tant de succès dans les autres villes de l'île. On a préféré se tenir discrètement derrière les autorités Turques et de les faire agir, sans en avoir l'air. Le résultat en est que les autorités Turques ont continué à agir à leur façon ; qu'on a laissé se consommer la ruine de la population Chrétienne de Candie, la plus riche et la plus industrieuse de l'île ; que les Chrétiens de l'intérieur sont poussés par le mauvais exemple à user de représailles, malgré les efforts de l'Assemblée pour les en empêcher ; enfin, qu'on risque de compromettre le prestige de l'occupation internationale, aux yeux de la populace, en laissant croître dans l'esprit de celle-ci la fausse idée que les Européens voient avec complaisance les actes d'injustice et de cruauté qui se commettent sous leurs yeux, ou bien qu'ils n'ont pas le courage de les réprimer et de les punir.

Nous n'avons pas besoin d'indiquer combien cet état de choses est en désaccord avec le but pacifique et humanitaire que l'occupation internationale s'est proposé, ni combien de difficultés et de dangers peuvent être suscités dans l'avenir, par les impressions erronées, qui en sont la conséquence.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) S. C. SPHAKIANAKIS.
Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) S. PAPANTONAKIS.

No. 45.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 6.)
My Lord, *Canea, Crete, January* 28, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, copy of a correspondence which has taken place between Admiral Canevaro and the President of the Cretan Assembly, in consequence of the Petition addressed to him as doyen on the 23rd instant, a copy of which is inclosed in my immediately preceding despatch.

Having called yesterday on the Italian Admiral he spoke to me of this incident, and

gave me to read the letters exchanged between them, which he told me he had communicated to Admiral Harris. At my request my Italian colleague has kindly given me a copy of the letter addressed by his Admiral to the President of the Assembly, who sent a copy of his answer to Admiral Canevaro to each Consul.

The step taken by the Italian Admiral speaks for itself, and requires no comments on my part.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

Inclosure 1 in No. 45.

Vice-Admiral Canevaro to the President of the Cretan Assembly.

M. le Président,

JE suis en possession de votre lettre du 11 (23) Janvier, 1898, au sujet de laquelle je crois devoir vous faire les observations suivantes :—

Si j'ai l'honneur, comme doyen, de présider le Conseil des Amiraux, j'ai aussi le devoir de ne pas servir d'intermédiaire pour faire parvenir à mes collègues des plaintes ou des accusations pouvant blesser l'amour-propre de l'un d'eux ou du Commandant Militaire placé sous ses ordres.

Or, il y a dans votre lettre des phrases désagréables, blessantes même, pour le Colonel Chermside et pour les soldat Anglais ; je m'abstiendrai donc de présenter cette lettre à mes collègues, en vous laissant libre de l'adresser directement vous-même à chacun d'eux, si vous croyez nécessaire d'insister sur vos plaintes.

Quant à moi, je dois vous dire que j'y trouve des faits exagérés et des assertions erronées. Je crois que le mieux serait que vous n'y donniez pas suite, au moment surtout où l'Amiral Harris et le Colonel Chermside, par les plaintes récentes qu'ils ont faites contre l'autorité Ottomane à Candie, ont provoqué le remplacement, qui à été demandé et obtenu par le Conseil des Amiraux, et aussi quelques jours après que vingt-quatre Musulmans, coupables d'avoir voulu forcer le cordon les armes à la main, ont été arrêtés et détenues sur un navire de guerre Anglais pour être mis à la disposition des Amiraux.

Agréez, &c.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien, doyen des Amiraux en Crète,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

Inclosure 2 in No. 45.

The President of the Cretan Assembly to Vice-Admiral Canevaro.

Excellence, *Plakoures* (*Akrotiri*), *le* 14 (26) *Janvier*, 1898.

J'AI l'honneur d'accuser réception de la lettre que votre Excellence a bien voulu m'adresser *sub* No. 3117.

Relativement aux observations bienveillantes y contenues je tiens à assurer votre Excellence qu'en faisant la démarche en question nous avions en vue simplement d'exposer la situation telle qu'elle était à Candie, sans la moindre intention de froisser de susceptibilités légitimes. C'est du système et non pas de personnes que nous avons voulu nous plaindre.

Aussi, c'est avec satisfaction que nous avons appris, par la lettre de votre Excellence, les mesures qui viennent d'être prises par le Haut Conseil des Amiraux, sur l'initiative de son Excellence l'Amiral Harris et de M. le Colonel Chermside.

Espérant que ces mesures auront le résultat désiré, nous nous rangeons volontiers à l'avis que votre Excellence a bien voulu émettre et nous ne tenons pas à donner suite à autre démarche.

Veuillez, &c.
Le Président,
(Signé) S. C. SPHAKIANAKIS.

Le Secrétaire,
(Signé) S. PAPANTONAKIS.

No. 46.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 45.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 11, 1898, 12·15 P.M.

THE first Ambassadors' meeting since M. Zinoview's arrival was held yesterday to consider the complaints made by the Greek Minister with regard to alleged attacks upon villages near Trikkala by Turkish troops.

The German Ambassador maintained the right of the Turks to move their troops to places in Thessaly hitherto unoccupied, and some discussion took place as to whether such movements were really justifiable. Eventually it was agreed not to raise the question of principle, but to address the following collective communication to the Porte:—

"Il a été porté à la connaissance des Ambassades que sur certains points de la province de Thessalie qui n'avaient pas été occupés jusqu'à présent par les forces Ottomanes des conflits se seraient élevés entre la population et les troupes. En demandant à la Sublime Porte si le Commandant-en-chef de l'armée d'occupation a eu des raisons sérieuses de déplacer ses troupes, les Ambassadeurs s'inspirant du désir de maintenir la paix publique, et d'éviter tout ce qui pourrait amener une reprise d'hostilités, croient devoir recommander à la Sublime Porte de donner des ordres pour éviter les mouvements des troupes inutiles et l'occupation de points situés en dehors des territoires actuellement occupés."

A discussion followed respecting the alleged tortures in Macedonia.

M. Zinoview communicated the substance of the Russian Consul's reports from Uscub, which agreed pretty closely with those furnished from Salonica by Her Majesty's Consul-General. His Excellency stated that he had already made a representation to the Turkish Government on the subject. Instructions to do the same have now been received by the Austrian Ambassador. I myself shall not fail to urge inquiry, as instructed by your Lordship's telegram No. 18 of the day before yesterday.

No. 47.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 11.)

(No. 46.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 11, 1898, 12·40 P.M.

MY telegram No. 44 of the day before yesterday.

The Foreign Minister being unable to give me an assurance that a stop would be put to the proceedings against Mr. Amery, Mr. Eliot started for Uscub yesterday according to the notice which I had given to his Excellency the evening before. After his departure I received a message from Tewfik Pasha regretting that the difficulty of transacting business during Ramazan had prevented him from complying with my request.

Mr. Block was also summoned to the Palace to receive a message from the Sultan to myself expressing surprise that I had not ordered Mr. Amery to leave the country in accordance with a previous message sent me by His Majesty, and that I had sent Mr. Eliot to the spot.

According to the Austrian Consul at Uscub, Mr. Amery has been threatened by the police, and treated with marked discourtesy by the Vali, who accuses him of having struck a police officer several blows on the head with his cane.

The Sultan now declares that orders have been given for a stringent inquiry into the cases of torture.

No. 48.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12, 8 A.M.)

(No. 59.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Candia, February* 11, 1898, 7·50 P.M.

EXODUS many hundreds Christian Cretans past few weeks from this and neighbouring provinces. Over 700 Christian men, women, and children on sea-shore few miles west, destitute and ill-clad, wish to embark for Greece. Have been fed for past few days by British and Russian relief. No further British funds available, as naval fund pledged four months a-head. Egerton, Athens, has no funds in case they were transferred to Greece. Their numbers have been increasing. Can I have authority to spend sum not exceeding 10*l.* daily in conjunction with Senior Naval Officer until I receive further instructions?

No. 49.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 12.)

(Confidential.)
Sir, *Treasury Chambers, February* 11, 1898.

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury are aware that a proposal has been made by the Russian Government that Great Britain and France should join with Russia in guaranteeing the loan required by Greece for the purpose of paying the war indemnity to Turkey.

Their Lordships understand that the proposal has been accepted in principle by Her Majesty's Government and by the Government of France, subject to the discussion of the details of the arrangements to be made for the purpose; and they proceed to lay before you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, their views as to the manner in which effect may best be given to the intentions of the three Powers.

The amount of the war indemnity to be paid to Turkey (£ T. 4,000,000) is equivalent to 92,000,000 fr., or 3,680,000*l.* To this must be added £ T. 100,000, which is equivalent to 2,300,000 fr., or 92,000*l.*, to be paid as compensation for damage done by the Greek forces during the war. The settlement of these two claims will accordingly necessitate the raising of a loan of (approximately) 95,000,000 fr., or 3,800,000*l.* The calculations and estimates of the International Financial Commissioners, whose Report has been examined by this Board, show that, to tide over the special economic and financial difficulties of the next few years, it will be necessary for Greece to raise immediately, besides the indemnity loan, a sum of about 30,000,000 fr., or 1,200,000*l.*, and also to borrow, by instalments, an additional sum of 20,000,000 fr., or 800,000*l.*, making a total requirement, for economic purposes, of some 50,000,000 fr., or 2,000,000*l.*

The Financial Commission show that in the year 1903, by which time it is hoped that the financial and economic position of Greece will have been restored, there should be available out of her revenues for the service of the proposed two loans a sum of about 10,000,000 drachmai.

Owing to the impossibility of forecasting with any certainty the rate of exchange which is likely to prevail in the future, it is most difficult to name a rate at which drachmai will be convertible into francs. The Financial Commission seem to incline to a rate of 1·65. But, as with better financial conditions in Greece the rate may be expected to improve, it is, perhaps, fairly safe to assume that 1·60 drachmai will equal 1 fr. On that assumption, the estimated amount of 10,000,000 drachmai would be equivalent to 6,250,000 fr.

It is believed that the Economic Loan could be raised in the market on the sole credit of Greece at 5 per cent. interest.

	Fr.
If a very moderate sinking fund of (say) ¼ per cent. were attached to the loan, the amount annually required for the service of the Economic Loan of 50,000,000 fr. would, at the rate of 5·25 per cent., be	2,625,000
There would, therefore, out of the estimated total of	6,250,000
remain for the service of the Indemnity Loan of 95,000,000 fr. ..	3,625,000

Now, a yearly payment of 3,625,000 fr. represents 3·81 per cent. on 95,000,000 fr.; and the rate of interest at which the loan would have to be raised on an annuity of

3·81 (about 3*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*) per cent. would, of course, depend on the rate of the sinking fund, or, in other words, on the period over which the redemption of the loan is to be spread.

The Guaranteed Greek Loan of 1833 was repaid within thirty-eight years; and, even if the period for the repayment of the present Indemnity Loan were extended to a further period of fifteen years—that is, to fifty-three years—the rate of interest compatible with the redemption of the loan within that extended period would be not more than 3 per cent.

It would appear, then, that, if the guarantee of the three Powers be only several—that is, if each of the Powers guarantee one-third of the loan, as they did in 1833—the Indemnity Loan, apart from the Economic Loan, could not, without prolonging the guarantee for an undue length of time, be raised on terms compatible with the solvency of Greece.

A "several guarantee," however, might be possible, if the Economic Loan as well as the Indemnity Loan were guaranteed, because the annual payments which Greece would have to make in respect of the two loans would thus be reduced. In that case, one-third of the aggregate loan of 145,000,000 fr., or about 48,300,000 fr., might be assigned to each Power to be raised in whatever way that Power might prefer; and such share of the available sum of 6,250,000 fr. could be allotted to each Power as would enable effect to be given to the several arrangements so made. The extension of the guarantee to the total amount required to be raised on account of Greece, though it would increase the nominal liability of the Guaranteeing Powers, would not only improve their security, but it would avoid the unfavourable effect of placing two separate loans simultaneously on the market, and also the anomaly of ranking *pari passu* two loans of so different a nature as a Guaranteed Indemnity Loan, and an Unguaranteed Economic Loan.

If the idea of a "several guarantee" be abandoned, Her Majesty's Government would be equally prepared to ask the British Parliament to sanction a guarantee by Great Britain, jointly with France and Russia, to the Indemnity Loan (95,000,000 fr.) only, or preferably, for reasons already given, to the Indemnity and Economic Loans combined (145,000,000 fr.). But if resort be had to a joint guarantee, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it should be an essential part of the arrangements that the highest tenders for the loan wherever offered should be accepted, in order that the joint credit of the three Powers may be turned to the best account in the interests of Greece.

It seems unnecessary to enter into further details until Her Majesty's Government have learned the views of the other Guaranteeing Powers on the main questions whether the guarantee shall be joint or several, and whether it shall extend to the entire borrowing requirements of Greece or only to the Indemnity Loan.

But there is one point to which Her Majesty's Government attach much importance, namely, that a power of redemption at par during the currency of the loan at a fixed date should be inserted in the contract, in order that, if the credit of one or more of the Guaranteeing Powers improves, advantage may be taken of the circumstance.

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 50.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P.

Athens, February 12, 1898.

IN answer to the French Minister, who by instructions from M. Hanotaux asked the opinion of the Greek Government as to the form of the arrangement for the guarantee of the Indemnity Loan, Mr. Street said that in his opinion it would be best for Greece if it could be arranged that the Greek Government should invite the Delegates of the three Powers to come to an understanding on the subject, and their proposals would then be submitted to the Governments of the Guaranteeing Powers.

If this task were intrusted to Messrs. Dubois and Law a Russian Delegate could at once be named, either in London or Paris, to confer with them.

This suggestion of the Greek Government has been reported to Paris and St. Petersburgh.

In speaking to me Mr. Street insisted on the extreme urgency of the matter, and on the importance to this country of a settlement being come to without delay.

As the Treaty of 1832 is no precedent, the Greek Government are embarrassed to find a suitable form.

No. 51.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury—(*Received February* 12.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Berlin, February* 12, 1898.

IN an interview which I had with M. de Bülow this afternoon, his Excellency informed me that, with regard to the two ideas which he understood had been put forward by some of the Ambassadors at Constantinople, the Imperial Government would be prepared to accept either, namely:—

1. That a Commissioner or Provisional Governor (or whatever they might call him) should be appointed to proceed at once to Crete to ascertain the wishes of the people and to restore confidence.

2. That two of their number should be delegated by the Powers to hold the island, as it were, in deposit and to restore order.

No. 52.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.**

(No. 57.)

Foreign Office, February 12, 1898.

Sir,

YOUR Excellency is aware of the proposal made by the Russian Government, that Great Britain and France should join with Russia in guaranteeing the loan required by Greece for the purpose of paying the war indemnity to Turkey.

That proposal has been accepted in principle by Her Majesty's Government and by the Government of France, subject to the discussion of the details of the arrangements to be made for the purpose.

In view of the importance of facilitating the evacuation of Thessaly at the earliest possible date, it appears desirable that no time should be lost in settling the precise form in which this aid should be given.

Her Majesty's Government, after examining the Report of the International Financial Commission recently assembled at Athens, desire to submit their views on these questions to the Governments who are prepared to be associated wtth them in the matter.

The amount of the war indemnity to be paid to Turkey (£T. 4,000,000) is equivalent to 92,000,000 fr. or 3,680,000*l.*, to which must be added £T. 100,000 (equivalent to 2,300,000 fr. or 92,000*l.*), to be paid as compensation for damage done by the Greek forces during the war. The settlement of these two claims will necessitate the raising of a loan of approximately 95,000,000 fr. or 3,800,000*l.*

The calculations and estimates of the International Financial Commissioners show that to tide over the special economic and financial difficulties of the next few years it will be necessary for Greece to raise immediately, besides the indemnity loan, the sum of about 30,000,000 fr. or 1,200,000*l.*, and also to borrow by instalments an additional sum of 20,000,000 fr. or 800,000*l.*, making a total requirement for economic purposes of some 50,000,000 fr. or 2,000,000*l.*

The Financial Commission show that in the year 1903, by which time it is hoped that the financial and economic position of Greece will have been restored, there should be available out of her revenues for the service of the proposed two loans a sum of about 10,000,000 drachmai.

Owing to the impossibility of forecasting with any certainty the rate of exchange which is likely to prevail in the future, it is most difficult to name a rate at which drachmai will be convertible into francs. The Financial Commission seem to incline to a rate of 1·65. But, as with better financial conditions in Greece, the rate may be

* Also to Sir N. O'Conor (No. 47).

expected to improve, it is, perhaps, fairly safe to assume that 1·60 drachmai will equal 1 fr. On that assumption the estimated amount of 10,000,000 drachmai would be equivalent to 6,250,000 fr.

It is believed that if the indemnity loan be guaranteed by the three Powers the economic loan might be raised in the market on the sole credit of Greece at 5 per cent. interest. If a very moderate sinking fund of (say) $\frac{1}{4}$ per cent. were attached to the loan the amount annually required for the service of the economic loan of 50,000,000 fr. would, at the rate of 5·25 per cent. be 2,625,000 fr. There would, therefore, out of the estimated total of 6,250,000 fr. remain for the service of the indemnity loan of 95,000,000 fr., 3,625,000 fr.

Now, a yearly payment of 3,625,000 fr. represents 3·81 per cent. on 95,000,000 fr., and the rate of interest at which the loan would have to be raised on an annuity of 3·81 (about 3*l.* 16*s.* 2*d.*) per cent. would, of course, depend on the rate of the sinking fund, or, in other words, on the period over which the redemption of the loan is to be spread.

The guaranteed Greek Loan of 1833 was repaid within thirty-eight years; and even if the period for the repayment of the present indemnity loan were extended by a further period of fifteen years, that is, to fifty-three years, the rate of interest compatible with the redemption of the loan within that extended period would be no more than 3 per cent.

It would appear, then, that if the guarantee of the three Powers be only several, that is, if each of the Powers guarantee one-third of the loan as they did in 1833, the indemnity loan, apart from the economic loan, could not, without prolonging the guarantee for an undue length of time, be raised on terms compatible with the solvency of Greece.

A "several guarantee" however might be possible if the economic loan, as well as the indemnity loan were guaranteed, because the annual payments which Greece would have to make in respect of the two loans would thus be reduced. In that case one-third of the aggregate loan of 145,000,000 fr., or about 48,300,000 fr. might be assigned to each Power, to be raised in whatever way that Power might prefer, and such share of the available sum of 6,250,000 fr. could be allotted to each Power as would enable effect to be given to the several arrangements so made. The extension of the guarantee to the total amount required to be raised on accouut of Greece, though it would increase the nominal liability of the guaranteeing Powers, would not only improve their security, but it would avoid the unfavourable effect of placing two separate loans simultaneously on the market, and also the anomaly of ranking, *pari passu*, two loans of so different a nature as a guaranteed indemnity loan, and an unguaranteed economic loan.

If the idea of a several guarantee be abandoned, Her Majesty's Government would be equally prepared to ask the British Parliament to sanction a guarantee by Great Britain, jointly with France and Russia, to the indemnity loan (95,000,000 fr.) only, or preferably, for reasons already given, to the indemnity and economic loans combined (145,000,000 fr.). But if resort be had to a joint guarantee, Her Majesty's Government are of opinion that it should be an essential part of the arrangements that the highest tenders for the loan wherever offered, should be accepted, in order that the joint credit of the three Powers may be turned to the best account in their own interest, and in the interests of Greece.

It seems unnecessary to enter into further details until Her Majesty's Government have learned the views of the other guaranteeing Powers on the main questions whether the guarantee shall be joint or several, and whether it shall extend to the entire borrowing requirements of Greece, or only to the indemnity loan.

But there is one point to which Her Majesty's Government attach much importance, namely, that a power of redemption at par during the currency of the loan at a fixed date should be inserted in the contract, in order that, if the credit of one or more of the guaranteeing Powers improves, advantage may be taken of the circumstance.

You will give a copy of this despatch to the Minister for Foreign Affairs, and will request that Her Majesty's Government may be favoured with the observations of the French Government at their earliest convenience upon the considerations submitted in it.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 53.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Foreign Office, February 12, 1898.

Sir,

I AM directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you a copy of a telegram from Colonel Sir H. Chermside, calling attention to the destitute condition of over 700 Cretan Christians in the neighbourhood of Candia, and asking for authority to spend a sum not exceeding 10*l.* daily, in conjunction with the Senior Naval Officer, for their relief.

I am to inquire whether the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury would be disposed to sanction this expenditure as recommended by Sir H. Chermside up to a certain specified limit, and, in that case, what limit they would wish to assign.

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 54.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 13.)

(No. 49.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 13, 1898, 12·30 A.M.

MY telegram No. 45 of the 11th February.

The Austrian Dragoman made a communication yesterday to the Foreign Minister, in the name of the Ambassadors, with regard to the alleged conflicts between the Ottoman troops in Thessaly and the Greek population. His Excellency stated in reply that the allegations upon this subject had proved to be false, and that the villages referred to were within the zone occupied by the Turkish troops. The Greek Government, he added, had published a contradiction of these statements which had caused some excitement at Athens.

No. 55.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 44.)

St. Petersburgh, February 3, 1898.

My Lord.

ON receipt of your Lordship's telegram No. 29 of the 30th ultimo, I lost no time in informing Count Mouravieff that Her Majesty's Government were willing to join in the guarantee of a Greek Loan for payment of the war indemnity, in accordance with the proposal lately made to your Lordship by the Russian Ambassador.

Upon my calling at the Foreign Office yesterday afternon, Count Mouravieff expressed his satisfaction at hearing of your Lordship's decision, and referred to the fact that his present proposal was similar to that which your Lordship had made in the month of August last.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 56.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 46.)

St. Petersburgh, February 9, 1898.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the précis of a semi-official communiqué, published in the "Official Messenger" of to-day's date, in which the principal events which have taken place in Crete from the time of the landing of Colonel Vassos on the island up to the final refusal of the Sultan to accept Prince George of Greece as Governor, are briefly summarized.

* No. 48.

The situation, the communiqué continues, is so hopelessly complicated that Russia will not insist upon her present proposal, nor will she make any fresh suggestions for the settlement of the question, and she at the same time divests herself of any responsibility for any disastrous consequences which may ensue from the protracted delay.

In conclusion, it is stated that Russia will not permit the landing of any more Turkish soldiers on the island nor will she take part in any coercive measures directed against the Cretans, who have so long and so patiently awaited the settlement of their destiny.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

P.S.—Since the above was written a French translation of the communiqué has appeared in the "Journal de Saint-Pétersbourg," which I have the honour to inclose herewith.

N. R. O'C.

Inclosure in No. 56.

Extract from the "Official Messenger" of January 28 (February 9), 1898.

THE principal events which have taken place on the Island of Crete, from the time of the landing of Colonel Vassos down to the last and definite refusal of the Sultan to accept Prince George of Greece as Governor of the island, are briefly reviewed. It is then stated that Russia's object in proposing the Prince as Governor was to insure the integrity of the Ottoman Empire and to preserve peace in the East, for which it is necessary to have a Governor capable of upholding the power of his office and of protecting the Christian and Mussulman population alike.

Such were Russia's disinterested wishes for a definite settlement of the Cretan question that would remove for ever any excuse for interference on the part of the Powers. Owing to the opposition of the Sultan and some of the Powers, Russia has not insisted on her proposal, and she would have had no objection to support any other proposal which would have satisfied the Sultan, the Powers, and the Cretans. The situation appears, however, too hopelessly complicated, and, therefore, Russia does not consider it possible to take upon herself the initiative of making any fresh proposals.

Russia, still remaining on good terms with Turkey as well as with those Powers which have not agreed with her proposals, has not delayed to inform the European Governments that she divests herself of all responsibility for any disastrous consequences which may ensue from the protracted delay in selecting a Governor. Russia will, however, in no case allow the Turkish troops on the island to be reinforced, nor will she take part, under any circumstances, in coercive measures against the Cretans, who now so long have been patiently awaiting a final settlement of their destiny.

No. 57.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 47.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 9, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that Count Lamsdorff informed me this afternoon that the Italian Ambassador had, on behalf of his Government, made a suggestion that the Powers should, in view of the difficulty attending the election of a Governor-General of Crete, agree to appoint a "Commissaire Provisoire" who would hold office and exercise full administrative authority pending an agreement between the Powers and Turkey in respect to a permanent Governor-General.

Count Lamsdorff said he had replied that if the other Powers agreed and the Sultan gave his consent, and it was possible to find any one capable and willing to take this office, the Russian Government would raise no objection, but that he doubted whether this suggestion would be easier to carry out than that of the selection of a Governor-General.

I have, &c.
(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 58.

Mr. Hallward to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 4. Very Confidential.)

Cettinjé, February 7, 1898.

My Lord,

WITH reference to my despatches Nos. 2 and 3 of the 14th and 30th January respecting the candidature of M. Bojo Petrovitch for the post of Crete, I have the honour to report that, contrary to what I supposed, the Russian Government appear to have thought that they would give pleasure to the Prince of Montenegro by putting forward M. Bojo, and M. Goubastoff, the Russian Minister here, did his best to overcome the Prince's objections to that gentleman's candidature.

The Prince stated to the Russian Minister as his principal objection that M. Bojo was indispensable to him in the administration of the Principality, but M. Goubastoff tells me that His Highness' real motives for opposing the candidature were those given in my despatch No. 2, Very Confidential, of the 14th ultimo, though they would naturally appear far-fetched and unreasonable to any one unacquainted with Oriental character and springs of action.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. M. HALLWARD.

No. 59.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 81.)

Constantinople, February 9, 1898.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship copy of a letter addressed by the Greek Minister to the Austrian Ambassador, as doyen of the Ambassadors, respecting the attacks alleged to have been committed by the Turkish regular troops, under the command of superior officers, on certain villages in Thessaly, on the pretext of levying taxes. Under instructions from his Government, Baron Calice has invited his colleagues to take joint abtion in the sense desired by the Hellenic Government, and I have agreed to do so. A joint representation will accordingly be made at the Porte by the Dragomans of the six Embassies to-morrow.

I have, &c.

(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure in No. 59.

Prince Mavrocordato to Baron Calice.

Péra, le 25 *Janvier* (6 *Février*), 1898.

Mon cher Ambassadeur,

D'APRÈS ce que l'on me télégraphie d'Athènes, des scènes de violence et de destruction désolent, depuis plusieurs jours, certaines parties de l'ouest de la Thessalie. Ces attaques contre des villages inoffensifs, exécutées par les troupes régulières, sous la direction d'officiers supérieurs de l'armée de l'occupation, ont comme prétexte des levées d'impôts, ou des exactions diverses, qui ne sont basées sur aucun droit, et ne s'accordent pas avec l'état de paix existant.

Elles ont comme résultat la prise de possession de villages qui jusqu'à ce jour étaient ratés en dehors du rayon de l'occupation Ottomane. Les télégrammes que je reçois citent notamment les villages de Mavromatti, de Gralitza, et de Mouzaki (tous trois sur le versant est du Pinde, et au sud-ouest de Trikkala), dont aucun n'avait été occupé jusqu'à présent par les troupes Turques. Ce dernier village, qui a été cerné et attaqué par Seifoullah Pacha, ayant sous ses ordres plusieurs bataillons et de l'artillerie, a opposé une vive résistance, et, après avoir été pris, a été incendié et entièrement détruit.

Je n'ai pas manqué, dès que les premières nouvelles me fussent parvenues, d'appeler sur la question la sérieuse attention de son Excellence Tewfik Pacha, qui a bien voulu, avec son empressement habituel, promettre tout son concours, et je ne doute pas qu'il a fait les démarches nécessaires, restées jusqu'ici malheuresement sans effet.

Le Gouvernement Royal me charge d'exposer aux Représentants des Grandes Puissances ce regrettable état de choses, qui désole une province occupée à titre provisoire, et de demander leur bienveillante intervention pour faire cesser ces excès.

J'ai pensé que le moyen le plus prompt serait d'en prévenir votre Excellence par ces lignes, en la priant de vouloir bien se concerter avec ses collègues.

Je me propose de voir demain Tewfik Pacha, et je tâcherai de passer à l'Ambassade d'Autriche en sortant de la Porte.

En attendant, je prie, &c.

(Signé) MAVROCORDATO.

No. 60.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 35. Very Confidential.)

Vienna, February 10, 1898.

My Lord,

THE communiqué published in the St. Petersburgh "Government Messenger" respecting the candidature of Prince George of Greece has been very welcome here, putting an end, for the time, to the anxiety felt on this question.

Count Goluchowski, under the sense of this temporary relief, adduces further arguments against the candidature, founded on the reports which he says have reached him from Crete as to the exaggeration of the accounts of discontent on the part of the Christians, which could only be allayed by the solution proposed by Russia.

He professes to know that the Christian population is inclined to be far more reasonable than is generally believed, and would have readily accepted any provisional Governor installed by the Powers.

The periodical statements which appear about murders committed by Christians or Mussulmans are, he says, mostly sensational stories fabricated for the purpose.

I observed to him that it was all very well to talk about a provisional Governor whose appointment, according to Count Goluchowski, would amply suffice for the present, and would allow a respite of one or two years for the final settlement of the Cretan question, but where was he to be looked for after the successive failures which we had witnessed?

Count Goluchowski, however, would not admit that if the Powers were really in earnest in looking for a suitable candidate who could give no umbrage to anybody, there would be much difficulty in finding one.

As regards the surprising change of front of Russia in this matter, his Excellency, whom I rather pressed upon this point, is unwilling to assign for it any reason beyond the special influences brought to bear in favour of Prince George, to which I have referred in previous despatches, and, in this respect, holds language similar to that of my German colleague, who is disinclined to believe in any ulterior designs on the part of Count Mouravieff, whom he looks upon as an opportunist charged with ingratitude by those to whom he owes his almost unexampled rise in the world.

To Count Goluchowski it is of course distasteful to admit that Russia is in any degree contravening the spirit of the Austro-Russian Agreement (and the Russian communiqué carefully guards against such an assumption by emphasizing the excellent relations of the Russian Government with the Powers who did not favour the Greek candidature), but in higher quarters doubts are allowed to appear on this subject. The Emperor, with whom I had the honour of conversing the evening before last, again expressed with the utmost frankness his surprise at Russia having brought forward a proposal so opposed to the considerations by which the Powers had been guided for the last twelvemonth in Cretan affairs, a proposal the very morality of which seemed to him questionable.

He could not, he said, understand the Emperor of Russia ("Je ne comprends pas l'Empereur"), and when I took the liberty of asking whether His Majesty thought that the Russian Government had any aim in this question beyond what had been revealed the Emperor shook his head, and replied that "he could not tell," in a manner betokening little confidence.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 61.

Senior Naval Officer, Crete, to Admiralty.—(*Communicated by Admiralty, February* 14.)

"*Hood*" *at Canea, Crete, February* 13, 1898.

(Telegraphic.)

CHRISTIAN insurgents are now prevented from landing ammunition only in Candia, Canea, Suda, by Her Majesty's ships. They can land it in any creek or bay around the island. Same restrictions apply to Mahommedans in the towns where they are all living.

No. 62.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.**

(No. 43.)

Foreign Office, February 14, 1898, 12·55 P.M.

(Telegraphic.)

GREEK Chargé d'Affaires has communicated request from his Government that, in view of approaching meeting of Chamher, they may receive an assurance in writing of willingness of Her Majesty's Government to join in guarantee of the indemnity loan.

A despatch is on its way to you containing our suggestions with regard to the guarantee for communication to French and Russian Governments.

I see no objection to informing the Greek Government that the three Governments have agreed in principle to guarantee a loan for the purpose of enabling Greece to pay the war indemnity. But I think the communication should be made by all three Governments jointly, and in identic terms.

Consult Foreign Minister on this point, and let me have his views on the terms of the communication.

Greek Chargé d'Affaires also asked for notification that Her Majesty's Government accept the five documents submitted by the International Commission.

I should be glad to know what course the Russian Government propose to take on this point.

No. 63.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 14.)

(No. 50.)

Constantinople, February 14, 1898, 6 P.M.

(Telegraphic.) P.

MR. ELIOT telegraphs to-day from Uskub as follows :—

"Over 500 Bulgarians are believed to have been arrested in the Vilayet of Kossova. The search for arms is said to have been conducted with great brutality, and large numbers are crowded in small local prisons, confinement in which is dangerous to health and life. Some thirty persons have been tortured by fire or otherwise, and many beaten. There has been much violation of children.

"Yesterday five Bulgarians were murdered at a village called Brelovo. Of those who were tortured ten have died. I hear from the Austrian officials on the railway that their recent orders imply that troops are to be concentrated here in large numbers, and the Turkish Consuls in Bulgaria and Servia have been warned by the Porte that those countries are likely in the spring to make an offensive movement."

(Secret.)

The Austrian Consul thinks his Government is opposed to investigation which he himself strongly advocates. He has shown me his reports to Baron Calice urging an international inquiry.

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* Also to Sir E. Monson (No. 19, Telegraphic).

No. 64.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 34.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 14, 1898.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch, No. 68, Confidential, of the 3rd instant, inclosing a précis of a Memorandum recently presented to the Porte by the Bulgarian Agent at Constantinople, complaining of the arrest and torture of Bulgarians in Northern Macedonia.

I approve your Excellency's proposal to make representations to Tewfik Pasha as to the expediency of investigating the charges made, and, if they are proved to be true, of punishing the perpetrators of these excesses.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 65.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury:—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 80.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 14, 1898.

M. HANOTAUX has been for some days confined to his room with influenza; and I therefore delivered this day to M. Nisard, the Political Director of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 57 of the 12th instant, respecting the triple guarantee of the Greek Loan to which the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Russia have assented; explaining to him that it contained the views of Her Majesty's Government on the nature of the guarantee, and on the procedure to be adopted for raising the loan, and begging that the Government of the Republic would lose no time in informing that of Her Majesty's of their opinion thereupon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 66.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 53.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 15, 1898, 10·45 A.M.

IN reply to an inquiry from the Sultan as to whether he might regard the candidature of Prince George as cancelled, the Russian Ambassador stated that, out of consideration for the objections raised by His Majesty, his Government would not urgently press the proposal, but would leave it to the course of events and the lapse of time to demonstrate to the Sultan and the Ottoman people that the only way to re-establish order in the island is to nominate the Prince as Governor. He added that Russia would take care that the Prince's investiture, like that of every Ottoman functionary, should only take place in full reliance upon the Sultan. Russia, however, would never allow any further Turkish troops to land in Crete.

No. 67.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 30.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *St. Petersburgh, February* 15, 1898.

GREEK Loan.

I have seen Count Lamsdorff, in accordance with your Lordship's telegram No. 43 of yesterday.

His Excellency stated that instructions had already been sent to the Russian Minister at Athens to inform the Greek Government that Russia was ready to join in the guarantee.

Further instructions will now be sent to him directing him to concert with the Representatives of Great Britain and France with a view to a joint and identic communication.

Count Lamsdorff has proposed to the Minister of Finance the name of M. Raffalowitch, Russian Financial Agent in Paris, as Russian Delegate to decide with Messrs. Law and Dubois on the form, &c., of the guaranteed loan.

The question of the acceptance of the five documents submitted by the International Commission is still under consideration by the Minister of Finance.

No. 68.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 13.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 15, 1898, 5 P.M.

M HANOTAUX is laid up with an attack of influenza. I have consequently been unable to see him with reference to the Greek loan, as instructed by your Lordship in your telegram No. 19. I will endeavour, however, to see his Excellency to-morrow.

I have, in the meantime, already handed to M. Nisard, the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, a copy of your Lordship's despatch No. 57 and begged that the French Government would take it immediately into consideration.

No. 69.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 14.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 15, 1898, 3 P.M.

I HAVE the honour to inform your Lordship, with reference to your telegram No. 19, that instructions were sent yesterday to the French Minister at Athens to make the communication respecting the Greek Loan to the Greek Government.

M. Hanotaux has employed in this communication the terms of his original instructions to the French Representatives at St. Petersburgh and London, to inform the Russian Government and Her Majesty's Government of the agreement by France to the triple guarantee proposed by Russia.

This formula is, M. Hanotaux says, very similar to the formula used in the Treaty of the 7th May, 1832. It offers no obstacle to his consulting and obtaining the consent of the Chamber and Senate, which is requisite. It has the additional advantage that he will not be liable to be attacked in the Legislature for precipitation in engaging the French Government.

An engagement to join with Russia and England in an identic communication, as your Lordship suggests, is objected to, apparently, on the same ground.

With regard to the five documents which the International Commissioners have submitted, M. Hanotaux tells me that a comprehensive Report is now being drawn up by the French Commissioner in which they will be published. A simple acknowledgment of their receipt would, in his Excellency's opinion, be sufficient ratification.

No. 70.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 15.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 15, 1898, 4 P.M.

A DISCUSSION between Paris, London, and St. Petersburgh on the points raised with regard to the Greek Loan, as suggested in your Lordship's despatch No. 57, would, M. Hanotaux fears, prove interminable.

His Excellency advocates a meeting as early as possible between M. Dubois de l'Estang and Major Law at Paris in order to agree upon a project; and he recommends that either a Russian Delegate should join them here or that they should proceed to St. Petersburgh.

M. Hanotaux would, however, give the preference to a discussion in Paris, the discussion to be conducted by financial experts.

No. 71.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 15.)

(No. 16.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 15, 1898, 4 P.M.

M. HANOTAUX says, with reference to Sir F. Lascelles' telegram on the subject of Crete, that the first of the two ideas, which originated with Count Goluchowski, will not, he believes, be accepted by Russia. If Germany and Austria like to undertake the task offered by the second, the other Powers are not expected by M. Hanotaux to object, but it was in principle rejected months ago.

No. 72.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 19.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 15, 1898.

I APPROVE the proposal, contained in your Excellency's telegram No. 44 of the 9th instant, to send Mr. Eliot to Uskub if the Turkish authorities refuse to stop proceedings against Mr. Amery.

No. 73.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 30.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 9, 1898.

YESTERDAY I received a private letter from M. Zaïmis, informing me that he had received the good news that Her Majesty's Government had decided in principle to guarantee the Hellenic Loan for the war indemnity in conjunction with France and Russia.

This communication had been made privately and confidentially to the Hellenic Chargé d'Affaires in London by the Under-Secretary of State for Foreign Affairs, and consequently his Excellency did not consider himself justified in calling the Chamber together, but he begged to express, personally and at once, his profound gratitude for the decision taken by Her Majesty's Government.

I saw his Excellency to-day, and he seemed anxious for further information, which I was not able to give him, on the subject of the benefit to be conferred by the three Powers, comprising the speedy evacuation of Thessaly as well as financial safety, for owing to the promised guarantee of the larger sum, he seemed confident that the smaller loan required would now be obtainable on reasonable terms, and was evidently impatient to be able to communicate the good news in detail to the Chamber.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 74.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 31. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 9, 1898.

M. ZAÏMIS said that he had learnt from Constantinople that Baron Calice had, contrary to his practice, considered it necessary to lecture M. Mavrocordato as to the danger of Prince George's candidature being maintained, saying that it would probably

entail the continued occupation of Thessaly by the Turks. M. Zaïmis considered the Austrian Ambassador's language a menace, and evidently would like the operation of the evacuation of Thessaly to be decided prior to that of the Cretan Governorship; this, his Excellency feared, to judge from his language as reported to him, might not be the view of M. Hanotaux.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 75.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 33.)
My Lord, *Athens, February* 9, 1898.

THE Athens press having been full of statements respecting cruel action of the Turkish troops in Thessaly and on a supposititious neutral zone, I took occasion to-day to tell M. Zaïmis that the letters I have received from Mr. Bigham, so far from confirming these accounts, make no complaint of the conduct of the Turkish troops, and state that Seifullah Pasha's movement was merely for the purpose of repressing brigandage, which was urgently needed.

The Minister, whilst admitting the falseness of the statements repeated by the press, considered that Seifullah Pasha by attempting to collect taxes at Mavromati, Lazzarma, Coupa, and Gralisla (to the south of Trikkala), had excited the peasantry to resistance, and had undoubtedly caused bloodshed. His Excellency said he was confident of his facts as regards the above villages, and he believed that at Musaki and other places the same forcible collection of taxes has been undertaken by the Pasha, but he had no exact news.

I had heard from Mr. Bigham that on the first of this month the Turks had taken the Musaki villages, the inhabitants having gone with their families to the mountains, but he described the conduct of the Turkish soldiers as "quiet."

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 76.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 21.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 10, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 18 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that M. Stoïloff told me this morning that, in reply to M. Markoff's representations on the subject of the outrages in northern Macedonia, the Sultan has promised to send a Military Commission to inquire into the facts. His Excellency added that he hears from his agents that the situation has already improved, and that less brutality is being shown by the authorities.

Being curious to learn what ground there could be for the Porte's denial, reported by Sir Philip Currie in his telegram No. 39 of the 5th instant, that M. Markoff had presented any Memorandum at all, I asked M. Stoïloff to whom it had been addressed, and from whom the answer had been received. His Excellency replied that the Memorandum (of which the substance had been correctly reported in the press) was sent to the Grand Vizier, and the answer to it had come from Yildiz Kiosk.

M. Stoïloff had also heard something of an intention on the part of the Sultan to send troops to the Bulgarian frontier, but he treated it very lightly. I should, however, ascribe to this information the orders for increased vigilance on this side of the frontier, reported in the despatch from Her Majesty's Vice-Consul at Philippopoli, of which I have the honour to inclose a copy, rather than to the reasons for it which Mr. Wratislaw surmises.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

Inclosure in No. 76.

Vice-Consul Wratislaw to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 9.)

Sir, *Philippopoli, February* 9, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that there is some talk in military circles here of an approaching mobilization of the Bulgarian army. Certain officers have been warned to hold their several departments in readiness for a sudden emergency, and, in general, a stricter watch than usual is ordered to be kept upon the Turkish frontier, but I can learn of no other ground on which the rumours in question are based.

As Bulgarian policy is understood to be at the present moment under Russian guidance, the belief prevails amongst the garrison that some slight demonstration may be intended as a warning to the Porte of what might happen in case the Cretan views of the Czar meet with prolonged opposition at Constantinople, and that, at the same time, Prince Ferdinand is glad to create any diversion which may prevent the minds of his officers from brooding too much over the approaching return of the emigrants.

I have, &c.

(Signed) A. C. WRATISLAW.

No. 77.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 22.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 10, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 19 of the 3rd instant, I have the honour to report that Colonel Peshkoff left Sophia the day before yesterday, having signed with the Bulgarian Minister of War a Protocol defining the conditions of the return of the "emigrant" officers.

M. Stoïloff told me this morning that no further change had been made in the conditions previously agreed upon, except that the term within which the officers were required to send in their petitions for re-employment or for a pension was reduced from three years to nine months.

The conspirators Bendereff and Vankoff, he said, are excluded from the benefit of the arrangement.

The Russian Agent has proposed, and the Bulgarian Government has gladly accepted, that the Protocol should be confirmed by an exchange of notes between the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and the Agency.

A few hours after my conversation with M. Stoïloff I was informed by a Bulgarian gentleman that he had been told by Colonel Ivanoff, the Minister of War, and also by the "emigrant" Grueff, who is now in Sophia, that no exception had been made, and that Bendereff would return like the others, but later, in order to avoid demonstrations.

As M. Stoïloff's assurances cannot always be absolutely relied on, I am disposed to think the latter version the more probable, especially as Bendereff is said to be an especial favourite of General Kouropatkine, the new Russian Minister of War.

I have, &c.

(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

P.S. *February* 11.—M. Bakhmeteff, the Russian Agent, has just told me that no exceptions have been made, and that Bendereff will return in about a year.

F. E.

No. 78.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 23. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Sophia, February* 11, 1898.

I LEARN from M. Bakhmeteff that the date of Prince Ferdinand's visit to St. Petersburgh, which has so long been spoken of, has been fixed, and that His Royal Highness will arrive there, with their Royal Highnesses the Princess and Prince Boris,

on the 14th March, travelling in the vessel, which he uses as a yacht, from Bourgas to Odessa.

In the course of a conversation which turned upon the contrast between the characters of Prince Ferdinand and the late Prince Alexander, M. Bakhmeteff dwelt upon the intelligence and culture of the present Ruler of Bulgaria, and said that his great defect was his nervousness, which, however, he thought would disappear when he had attained the object of his aspirations—the Royal dignity.

I do not know whether M. Bakhmeteff has encouraged these aspirations, but he spoke of them as entirely justifiable, and of the Bulgarian people as much better qualified for independence than "those wretched Servians."

It must always be remembered that when M. Bakhmeteff expresses his own opinions he by no means necessarily reflects those of his Government, yet he would hardly have mentioned the subject, in connection with the Prince's visit to St. Petersburgh, if it was one on which he knew that discussion would not be permitted there.

It is therefore very probable that the Prince will employ his time at St. Petersburgh in finding out at first hand what view the Emperor and the Russian Government would take of his assumption of the title of "Tsar Bulgarski," and what price he would be expected to pay for effective support against the Sultan's opposition to his independence.

He has fulfilled the condition of his recognition by Russia as lawful Prince at the cost to himself of increased unpopularity with his army; but he would recover the lost ground by obtaining the recognition of the independence of the country, if the further sacrifice exacted from him proved not to be too heavy.

I am not prepared to say that the Bulgarian nation and Government are sufficiently impressed with the sanctity of international obligations, or sufficiently familiar with the usages of civilized countries, to be fit, in their own interests or in those of foreign individuals who have dealings with them, for emancipation from the ckecks still provided by what remains of the capitulations; but I do not think the political interests of Great Britain would be injured by Prince Ferdinand's elevation to a position, the attainment of which, with the assistance of Russia, would pretty nearly exhaust the stock of the gratitude which consists in a "sense of benefits to come."

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 79.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 86.)

Paris, February 15, 1897.

My Lord,

M. HANOTAUX, who still appears to be suffering from illness, received me this morning after the Cabinet Council at the Élysée.

He had before him the copy (given by me to M. Nisard yesterday) of your Lordship's despatch to me, No. 57, of the 12th instant, respecting the Greek Loan to be guaranteed by England, France, and Russia.

He said that he had read it carefully (it had a French translation already attached to it), and that he was of opinion that it would not only be an extremely difficult, but even an almost interminable, task to discuss so complicated a matter by telegraph between London, Paris, and St. Petersburgh.

He was, therefore, desirous of proposing to your Lordship (as he would do to Count Mouravieff) that the preliminary discussion should be conducted by experts; and believing that Major Law would shortly be here, he thought that the Major should confer with M. Dubois de l'Estang, who has recently been his French colleague at Athens, and that they should at once draw up a project, and that they should then either proceed to St. Petersburgh, or, what he (M. Hanotaux) would much prefer, be joined at Paris by some one appointed by M. de Witte for the final elaboration of their task.

M. Hanotaux gave me to understand that he did not feel himself able to undertake the personal responsibility of a financial discussion such as is involved in the suggestions of your Lordship's despatch; but it is at the same time evident that he wants to have that discussion conducted in Paris.

Baron de Courcel will probably make this proposal to your Lordship to-morrow.

M. Hanotaux had already, yesterday, instructed M. Bourrée to inform the Greek

Government that France accepted the Russian proposal of the Triple Guarantee. But he observed that he objected to making the communication jointly and in identic terms with England and Russia; and he seemed to be apprehensive of being led into engagements without due preliminary sanction from the Chamber. He laid great stress upon the employment of such formula as to the promise of guarantee as that by which the three Powers bound themselves in the Convention of the 7th May, 1832; and said that his telegram to the French Minister at Athens was couched in the same words as those in which he telegraphed to the French Representatives at London and St. Petersburgh his original acceptance of Count Mouravieff's proposal for the guarantee of the three Powers.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 80.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 16.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, February* 16, 1898.

I LAID before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury your letter of the 12th instant, and its inclosure, representing the destitute condition of some 700 Cretan Christians in the neighbourhood of Candia, and inquiring whether their Lordships are disposed to sanction any expenditure for their relief, since, as appears from Sir H. Chermside's telegram No. 59 of the 11th instant, the naval fund being pledged four months ahead, no further British funds are available.

My Lords presume that, by the "naval fund" referred to, is meant the sum of 400*l.* advanced from the Civil Contingencies Fund for purposes of relief in the circumstances explained in your letter of the 28th December last; and I am directed to request you to point out to the Marquess of Salisbury that when this grant was sanctioned the Government of France had made a corresponding grant for the same purpose.

On the present occasion, however, though the other Great Powers are acting in concert with Her Majesty's Government in Crete, and are, at least, equally responsible for the present condition of that island, it does not appear that any one of them is prepared to devote any further funds to the object now proposed.

I am therefore to inquire on what grounds it is suggested that this country alone should undertake the further relief of destitution in Crete now proposed by Sir H. Chermside without any definite limit of time or total amount.

I am, &c.
(Signed) FRANCIS MOWATT.

No. 81.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Athens, February* 16, 1898.

THE Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs has received an official notification from the Russian Minister here that the Imperial Government will join England and France in guaranteeing the loan for the war indemnity.

M. Zaïmis is earnestly desirous that Her Majesty's Government and the French Government should make a similar notification and express their approval of the financial scheme of control, in order that he may be enabled to summon the Chamber for the purpose of obtaining a Vote on account—that for last month not having yet been voted.

No. 82.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 17.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 16, 1898, 6·40 P.M.

I AM assured by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs that the report referred to in your Lordship's despatch No. 60 respecting the French in China is without foundation. In those waters there are now two French surveying ships, but the French Government has sent no instructions for the landing of men from these vessels for any political object; nor is the initiation of any policy of this kind towards China in any way whatever contemplated by them.

No. 83.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 18.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 16, 1898, 7 P.M.

M. HANOTAUX expresses himself as confident that the proposal made by the Russian Government that they should send a Delegate to concert with the Delegates of France and England respecting the Greek Loan will be accepted, and he believes that Russia has a competent Agent here already. But the Russian Government has not yet answered.

On his arrival to-night Major Law will at once have an interview with his French colleague.

M. Hanotaux has again told me that it is not possible that he should himself enter into the details of the Greek Loan arrangement.

No. 84.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 16.)

(No. 54.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 16, 1898, 7·45 P.M.

MY telegram No. 52 of yesterday.

Now that Mr. Amery has left Macedonia, Mr. Eliot's mission is ended, unless it should be your Lordship's desire that he should remain at Uskub and watch the progress of the investigation into recent events which has been ordered by the Sultan.

The President of the Commission of Inquiry, Enver Pasha, has arrived at Uskub.

At Mr. Eliot's request the Vali has released some Bulgarians, and states that he has caused some officials to be arrested. The Uskub prison has been put in order.

Mr. Eliot is sending by post the details of a case of torture by hot irons, of which he has had ocular evidence. He thinks that if he is to make any further inquiry it must be in connection with the Turkish Commission.

Baron Calice, to whom I have spoken on the subject, is averse to taking any action. He is influenced mainly by the attitude of the Russians, who will not move in the case, owing apparently to their desire not to irritate the Sultan further. He would evidently prefer that we, too, should avoid taking any step which might give rise to another massacre question. He states that he has some reason to think that the murder of the Turk which started the search for arms was deliberately planned by the Macedonian Committee with the intention of causing disturbances; and that on this account he is the less inclined to act on behalf of the Bulgarians.

I should be glad to learn what are your Lordship's wishes under the circumstances. Should I leave Mr. Eliot at Uskub for a week or more to watch events, or should he be recalled at once?

No. 85.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 25.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1898.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 86 of the 14th instant, on the subject of the proposed guarantee of the Greek Indemnity Loan.

Please show to Mr. Law, who started this morning for Paris, Sir N. O'Conor's telegram No. 30 of yesterday, which I have just repeated to you, and tell him that Her Majesty's Government authorize him to discuss the details of the arrangement with M. Dubois and M. Raffalovitch.

The whole subject is familiar to Mr. Law, but it will be desirable that you should provide him with a copy of the despatch No. 57, which I addressed to your Excellency on the 12th instant, containing the suggestions of Her Majesty's Government.

No. 86.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 9.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1898.

A REQUEST from the Greek Government has been communicated to me by M. Metaxas that, in view of the approaching meeting of the Greek Chamber, they may receive a written assurance from Her Majesty's Government of their willingness to join in the proposed guarantee of the Indemnity Loan.

I have, in consequence, addressed inquiries to the Russian and French Governments with regard to the form in which this assurance should be communicated.

I learn from the former that instructions have already been sent to their Minister at Athens to notify their consent to the guarantee, and that he will be authorized to arrange as to a joint and identic communication to the Greek Government with you and your French colleague.

In the opinion, however, of the French Government a joint communication might expose them to the charge of anticipating the decision of the French Chamber; they object, therefore, to making such a communication, and state that they can only authorize their Representative to notify their consent to the guarantee, subject to its ratification by the Legislature, which must necessarily be consulted on such a measure, after examination and approval of the details.

This is a form of declaration which it would be quite convenient for us to adopt, and there is no reason why we should insist on the identical wording of the communications if they are similar in substance.

After consultation with the Russian and French Ministers as to your proposed communication, you should submit the text to me by telegraph for approval.

No. 87.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 10.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1898, 7 P.M.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 17 of this day relative to the request of the Greek Government for formal notifications of the assent of Her Majesty's Government to join in guaranteeing the Indemnity Loan, and of their approval of the financial arrangements recommended by the International Commission.

I have already telegraphed to you on the former of these two subjects.

I have received a request from M. Métaxas for a notification of the approval by Her Majesty's Government of the five documents submitted by the International Financial Commission.

These documents, as we understand, are still under examination by the Russian Government.

A slight modification of the Règlement as to the treatment of the Greek Funding Loan is being proposed by Her Majesty's Government, and Mr. Law has gone to Paris

to-day to discuss some alterations of detail required in the Report of the Commission with M. Dubois, the French Commissioner.

I fear, therefore, that, before a formal approval of these papers can be given by Her Majesty's Government, some little delay must take place.

No. 88.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 49.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1898.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 30 of yesterday's date respecting the proposed guarantee of the Greek Indemnity Loan.

Her Majesty's Government will authorize Mr. Law, who started this morning for Paris, to discuss with M. Dubois and M. Raffalovitch the details of the scheme.

No. 89.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.**

(No. 61.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 16, 1898.

THE Financial Commission, which has recently been sitting at Athens in accordance with the Preliminaries of Peace between Greece and Turkey, has now presented its recommendations as to the arrangements to be made by the Greek Government for the satisfaction of their foreign creditors and for the issue of a loan to cover the war indemnity payable to Turkey. I inclose herewith the draft of the Law to be passed by the Greek Government which the Commission recommend for this purpose, and of the Règlement to be annexed to that Law containing the conditions for the settlement of the existing Greek loans.

Her Majesty's Government consider that the Commissioners are entitled to great credit for the complete and satisfactory manner in which they have executed the laborious task intrusted to them, and that the thanks of the Powers are also due to the Greek Minister of Finance for the readiness which he has shown in placing at their disposal all the materials necessary for the purpose.

Her Majesty's Government are quite disposed to join with the rest of the Powers in giving their assent to the proposed Law and Règlement; but there is one provision in the latter document which they think might with advantage be slightly modified. In Article 2 of the Règlement the various loans are arranged in three groups, in the first of which are placed the 4 per Cent. Monopoly Loan of 1887 and the 5 per Cent. Funding Loan of 1893. But in Article 3 the minimum interest payable on the Monopoly Loan is fixed at 43 per cent. of the original interest, whereas the minimum interest assigned to the Funding Loan is fixed, as with the other loans in the second and third groups, at 32 per cent. of the original interest.

The Funding Loan is one of comparatively small amount (9,750,000 fr., or 390,000*l.*). It was taken up almost entirely by leading financial houses in London, and although the exact amount of the dividend now to be paid upon it may not be a matter of very material importance for those establishments, the question whether it has or has not received equitable treatment is likely to influence considerably their attitude towards the forthcoming Greek loans.

The proceeds of the Funding Loan were employed exclusively for the benefit of the public creditors of Greece, the Syndicate which subscribed the Loan having undertaken, under certain conditions, to redeem the coupons of the Public Debt, which the Greek Government were unable to pay.

The loan was contracted with the authority of a Royal Decree, under more favourable conditions of guarantee than had been accorded to any previous issue. The issuing Syndicate performed their part of the contract, but, after a few months, the contract was practically annulled and the security withdrawn, owing to the refusal of the Greek Chamber to ratify the arrangement, and the declaration by the Greek Government of its intention to temporarily reduce the interest on all foreign loans.

* Also to Sir N. O'Conor (No. 53), Sir F. Lascelles (No. 36), Sir Clare Ford (No. 17), and Sir H. Rumbold (No. 12).

Under these circumstances, Her Majesty's Government consider that the Funding Loan is entitled to the most equitable treatment, and, with their approval, the British Delegate on the International Financial Commission recently assembled in Athens proposed that. under the new arrangements, the Funding Loan should be accorded 40 per cent. of its original guaranteed interest. Although the Monopoly Loan, which would not appear in equity to be entitled to as liberal treatment as the Funding Loan, was accorded 43 per cent. of the original interest, the proposal of the British Delegate that the Funding Loan should receive 40 per cent., supported by an overwhelming majority of the Delegates, was not unanimously accepted, and, with the desire to avoid delaying the general settlement, Her Majesty's Government instructed their Delegate to accept, *ad referendum*, the proposals which commanded unanimous approval, whilst making a special reserve for the future consideration of this particular question.

Her Majesty's Government trust that, now that the whole of the circumstances connected with the issue of the Funding Loan are submitted to the consideration of the other Governments interested with themselves in the settlement of Greek finance, no opposition will be made to such a modification of the proposals of the Financial Commission as would give effect to the following moderate proposal.

Their proposal is that the money now in the hands of Messrs. Hambro and Son (amounting to rather over 10,000*l.*) shall be employed exclusively, as long as it suffices, to increasing the interest on Funding Loan bonds, up to a maximum of 40 per cent. of the original guaranteed interest; and further, that the Funding Loan shall be placed on an equal footing with all the other loans, as regards the payment out of the general resources from the assigned revenues of 5 per cent. of arrears due on coupons only partially paid since December 1893.

Her Majesty's Government have reason to believe that the proposed slight modification in the proposals formulated by the Commission, would receive the full approval of the Greek Government.

The amount of money in question is very small, and the modification now proposed could not in any way affect the interests of the holders of bonds of the other foreign loans. Moreover, the perfect equity of the proposal would appear evident if the origin of the 10,000*l.*, now in Messrs. Hambro's hands, be considered.

The money deposited with Messrs. Hambro was remitted to them by the Greek Government for the express and sole purpose of paying coupons of the Funding Loan, when these became due for payment. The deposit with Messrs. Hambro was of a character precisely similar to that of the 2,500,000 drachmai, which, in December 1893, were in the hands of the Monopoly Company, in Athens, collected for the payment of coupons of the Monopoly Loan.

The Greek Government, in December 1893, forced the Monopoly Company to hand over the funds they held, and employed these for its own purposes; at the same time, they prohibited Messrs. Hambro from paying out as dividends to the Funding Loan bondholders the sum deposited with them. The effect of the measures taken by the Greek Government was the same in each case, namely, to deprive the bondholders of dividends which had been duly collected and stood ready for their benefit.

On reference to Articles 13, 14, and 15 of the Règlement, it will be seen that, according to the proposals of the International Financial Commission, the treatment of the sums of which the Monopoly and Funding Loan bondholders were respectively deprived, is different. It is proposed that the whole of the sum of 2,500,000 drachmai, of which the Monopoly bondholders were deprived, shall be paid to them by instalments, in cash, for the purpose of increasing their dividends over a term of years.

The money belonging to the Funding Loan bondholders is, on the contrary, to be applied first to paying 10 per cent. of the arrears due on coupons only partially paid since the date of bankruptcy, and the balance is to be applied to amortisation, by purchase of bonds in the open market. No provision is made for increasing the interest on the Funding Loan in a manner similar to that arranged for the benefit of the Monopoly bondholders, and further, whilst 5 per cent. of the arrears on partially paid coupons of the Monopoly and other foreign Loans is to be paid out of the general resources from the assigned revenues, the payments on the same account to the Funding Loan are to be made out of the moneys in the hands of Messrs. Hambro. These moneys already belong absolutely to the Funding Loan bondholders, and it does not seem fair that they should be placed in a position of inferiority to the holders of all other classes of bonds by being left to pay to themselves, out of their own money, a percentage of the arrears on their coupons, without any contribution from

No. 96.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 11.)

Salonica, February 14, 1898.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of a despatch which I have received from the British Consular Agent at Janina relative to the state of affairs in that vilayet.

I have, &c.

(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 96.

Mr. Roberts to Consul-General Blunt.

(No. 5.)

Janina, February 7, 1898.

Sir,

THE situation of the vilayet continues the same.

The scarcity of provisions and the means of transport is exceedingly difficult, consequently living is also increasing, and owing to the severe cold the population is in a miserable position.

The inhabitants of Katzanshoria, three hours distant from Janina, have addressed a petition to the Vali against the bad behaviour of the troops, for they not only rob cattle from the country people, but other property as well, and if they refuse giving it up they are either killed or wounded; in fact, several cases of murder have been committed. The Vali has promised them to arrange this state of affairs, but difficulties are foreseen, because it is impossible to keep these troops into discipline unless they are recalled.

In the district of Vonitza brigands have of late made their appearance. They are said to be a remnant of irregular Greek soldiers who have set fire to a house and carried away with them a girl from the village Palioseli, or Pades. The troops meet with obstacles to pursue them in the mountains, owing to the extraordinary cold weather.

At Metzovo the Imperial troops have commenced spoliating passengers; some muleteers who were bringing wine to sell at Metzovo were assaulted and robbed of about £T. 50.

Among sixty-two Greek-Ottoman subjects that the police had arrested at Pazamithia some time ago for political reasons, and brought to Janina in fetters, there were three Orthodox priests. Two of them died the other day in prison, and it is stated that the third is now suffering greatly.

Within these last days a favourable sympathy was shown by the Russian Government to the Christian population, either because Russia has taken the initiative in behalf of the Cretan candidature of Prince George of Greece as Governor of Crete, or because the Holy Synod of Petersburgh is endeavouring to collect a help for the churches destroyed in Epirus and Thessaly by the Imperial Ottoman Army during the Greco-Turkish war. On the other hand, the dissatisfaction of the Ottoman population begins to augment against the Sultan. This dissatisfaction has been manifested everywhere, not excluding the army.

To-day news has been reported in this town which I cannot guarantee the truth of, and refer it with every reserve.

It is stated that in the Greek regions of Aspropotamos the Ottoman soldiers of Thessaly have occupied about thirty villages.

It is also stated that at Aspropotamos, where there are some irregular Greek bands, several skirmishes have taken place, and that the bands were compelled to retire because the number of the Imperial troops was more numerous than theirs.

I have, &c.

(Signed) C. ROBERTS.

No. 97.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 12.)
My Lord,

Salonica, February 14, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch to Sir Philip Currie reporting the return of the Greek Consul-General to Salonica, and referring to the treatment of Greek subjects during and since the war by the authorities here.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 97.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 32.)
Sir,

Salonica, February 13, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that M. Papadiamandopolos arrived here last week, and has resumed his duties as Greek Consul-General.

He has met with a courteous reception on the part of the Ottoman authorities, and when he called on the Vali his visit was returned the next day.

I avail myself of this opportunity to report that the Greek subjects who remained here since the beginning of the war, and those who had left and have since returned have not been molested, and that, in general, they have been protected and well treated by the local authorities.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 98.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 18.)

Sir,

Admiralty, February 16, 1898.

I AM commanded by the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit, for the information of the Secretary of State, extract from a letter dated the 1st instant from Rear-Admiral Harris relative to good feeling exhibited to him personally by his colleagues in the Council of Admirals and to the assistance he has received from Sir A. Biliotti, Her Majesty's Consul at Canea.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure in No. 98.

Rear-Admiral Harris to Admiral Sir J. O. Hopkins.

(Extract.)

"*Revenge*" *at sea, Latitude* 35° 50′ *north, Longitude* 19° 17′ *east, February* 1, 1898.

OUR Consul at Canea, Sir Alfred Biliotti, though well advanced in years, has been often of great assistance to me, owing to his intimate knowledge of the native Cretans, both Christian and Moslem, and he has never spared himself when he thought that his services could be of use.

The good work that he did at the rescue of the inhabitants of Kandanos and Selinos has already been officially recorded.

Finally, I wish to record my high appreciation of the good feeling always exhibited to me personally by my colleagues in the Council of Admirals, with whom I have been able to work as if we were all of one nationality, as far as the Cretan duties were concerned.

I have, &c.
(Signed) R. H. HARRIS.

No. 98*.

Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Candia, February* 17, 1898.

I HAVE to inform your Lordship, in reply to your telegram No. 1 of to-day, that the Russians have sent to the Cretan Bishop for use in the present emergency a sum of 40*l*. We shall require, in addition, 120*l*. monthly, probably for five months, if the exodus of the population to Greece is not encouraged. The proposal of the Russian Consulate, which is not yet approved is to give 160*l*. monthly to the Christians of the Province of Candia.

No. 99.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 55.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 18, 1898, 4·50 P.M.

NORTHERN Macedonia.

My despatch No. 68 of the 3rd February.

Mr. Eliot telegraphed yesterday from Uskub as follows:—

"I have received the Memorandum drawn up by the Bulgarian Agent. It can hardly be doubted that over 500 persons have now been arrested.

"Twelve of the cases of torture have been confirmed by independent evidence, which the Austrian Consul thinks conclusive.

"The Russian Consul thinks that three persons have been killed, that stories of torture cannot be accepted without impartial inquiry, and that most of the persons arrested were merely badly beaten.

"As regards the list of the Bulgarian Agent some items may be exaggerated, but they are counterbalanced by other bad cases which are not mentioned. I see no reason to doubt that the list gives a generally correct impression."

No. 100.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 18.)

(No. 21.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 18, 1898, 7 P.M.

FOLLOWING from Major Law:—

At meeting to-day with French and Russian Delegates, it was resolved to propose to respective Governments:

1. That guarantee should cover indemnity and deficit of 1897, amounting, together with expenses for issue of loan, to approximately 123,000,000 francs.

Assuming possibility of issue at price of $97\frac{1}{2}$, interest $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent., nominal capital of loan would be about 126,000,000 francs.

2. That the loan should be redeemable in approximately 57 years, by drawings or purchase in the market at par, sinking fund $\frac{3}{4}$ per cent.

3. That the loan should be repayable or convertible after 10 years by agreement between the guaranteeing Powers.

4. That the guarantee shall be joint and several.

No. 101.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Mr. Elliot.

(No. 5. Secret.)
Foreign Office, February 18, 1898.

Sir,

I HAVE received your despatch No. 7, Secret, of the 17th ultimo, reporting the receipt of a message from one of the Macedonian Committees stating that everything

was ready for a rising in the spring, and inquiring what view Her Majesty's Government would take of such an enterprise.

The reply which you have returned to this message is approved by Her Majesty's Government.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 102.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 18, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 16th instant, relative to the proposal to give relief to over 700 destitute Cretan Christians in the neighbourhood of Candia, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you paraphrases of a telegram sent to Colonel Sir H. Chermside making further inquiries on the subject,* and of the reply which has been received from him.†

I am to state, for the information of the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, that it is known that in Canea, where there are but few British troops, a considerable amount of relief has been distributed by the Russian Government. Candia, however, is occupied almost exclusively by British troops, and it would seem natural, in Lord Salisbury's opinion, that if relief is absolutely necessary for destitute persons in that town and its neighbourhood, the larger proportion, at least, should be distributed by the Commander of the British troops, who is mainly responsible for the district.

It is not quite clear, from Sir H. Chermside's telegram, at what amount he estimates the limit of the expenditure to be incurred, but it would appear that he expects to require about 600*l.*

On this point I am to refer to my letter of the 12th instant, in which it was suggested that a limit should be assigned by the Lords Commissioners.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 103.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 93. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

MAJOR LAW called on me yesterday, and as instructed by your Lordship I gave him a copy of your despatch No. 57 of the 12th instant, and also communicated to him the contents of Sir N. O'Conor's telegram No. 320 of the 15th instant.

Major Law had already had an interview with his French colleague, M. Dubois d'Estang, and has seen M. Hanotaux this morning. He will, I believe, be received by M. Cochéry, the Minister of Finance, to-morrow morning.

I have the honour to inclose copy of a private letter which he has sent to me, reporting what passed during his interview this morning with M. Hanotaux.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 103.

Major Law to Sir E. Monson.

Dear Sir Edmund Monson, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

I WAS received by M. Hanotaux this morning. He was very complimentary on the work of the Commission, and I was able honestly to say that the success of our labours was in great part due to the loyal character of the French Delegate.

M. Hanotaux said that he was anxious to expedite matters as much as possible, and that he hoped that within forty-eight hours M. Raffalovitch, M. Dubois, and

* No. 95. † No. 98*.

myself might formulate definite proposals for the form and conditions of guarantee the amount of the loan to be guaranteed, and the arrangements for issue.

M. Hanotaux expressed no opinion on any of these points beyond a general desire to follow, if possible, the precedents established in 1885 in connection with the Egyptian Guaranteed Loan.

I remain, &c.
(Signed) E. FG. LAW.

No. 104.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 94.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

I RECEIVED this morning by post your Lordship's despatch No. 61 of the 16th instant; and as M. Hanotaux will be engaged all this afternoon with the official reception of the new Russian Ambassador, I have thought it best, in order to save time, to send his Excellency a copy of it, as an inclosure in the note in which, as your Lordship will see by the inclosed copy, I have requested that the Government of the Republic will return an early answer to the proposal of Her Majesty's Government in regard to the modification which they desire to see introduced into the Règlement annexed to the draft Law drawn up by the International Financial Commission which has recently been sitting at Athens.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure in No. 104.

Sir E. Monson to M. Hanotaux.

M. le Ministre, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

I HAVE received instructions from the Marquess of Salisbury to communicate to your Excellency the inclosed copy of a despatch which his Lordship has addressed to me, under date of the 16th instant, in which your Excellency will find a statement of the slight modification which Her Majesty's Government desire to see introduced into the Règlement annexed to the Law which has been drawn up by the International Financial Commission recently sitting at Athens, in accordance with the Preliminaries of Peace between Greece and Turkey.

Her Majesty's Government are anxious to recommend the modification and arrangement suggested by them in this despatch to the favourable consideration of the other Powers; and I am requested to express the hope that the Government of the Republic will favour them with an early reply to the proposal contained in this despatch.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

No. 105.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 97. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which has been addressed to me by Major Law, reporting on the first meeting of the French and Russian Financial Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 105.

Major Law to Sir E. Monson.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Paris, February* 18, 1898.

AT a meeting with the French and Russian Delegates this afternoon a series of proposals were drawn up relating to the conditions of guarantee and issue of the loan required by Greece. I have the honour to inclose a copy of these proposals, of which I have also communicated a summary, in English, in telegraphic form.

A copy of his Lordship's despatch No. 57 of the 12th February was submitted to the Delegates by the French Ministry of Foreign Affairs. My French colleague objected to the extension of the guarantee to cover certain sums (about 3,000,000 fr.) payable in 1898 to creditors on account of the old debt, and included in the Economic Loan as proposed in Athens. Both the Frenchman and the Russian objected to the extension of the guarantee to cover the still undefined sum required to meet estimated deficits in the present and immediately following years.

My colleagues were both quite willing to reduce the term of currency of the loan below that of fifty-seven years now proposed; but on consideration, it did not appear advisable that Greece should be saddled with annual payments of a higher figure than a total of $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. on the nominal capital of a loan of 126,000,000 fr.

It is impossible for the Delegates to fix, without consultation with leading financiers, the most suitable price of issue and rate of interest for a guaranteed loan, but judging from the present price of Egyptian guaranteed stock, it would seem probable that a loan bearing $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. interest would be sufficiently readily taken if issued at about $97\frac{1}{2}$.

The question of the method of issue presents some difficulties, my French colleague observing that he did not think that the Chamber would like to guarantee a loan entirely subscribed in a foreign country. The Russian expressed a desire to see the loan raised in the cheapest manner possible. I thought it unadvisable to take any marked part in the discussion on this point. My colleagues have before them the suggestion set forth in his Lordship's despatch above mentioned. They may very possibly arrive at an agreement between themselves on some acceptable proposal, as the Russian Delegate is clearly in general accord with the views expressed by his Lordship.

My Russian colleague has already telegraphed our proposals to his Government, and if they contain any principles which fail to meet with his Lordship's approval, I should be glad, if possible, to receive a telegram on the subject before my next meeting with my colleagues to-morrow afternoon.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. FG. LAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 105.

Minutes of Preliminary Meeting held February 18, 1898.

LES Délégués reconnaissent d'un commun accord—

1. Qu'il y a avantage à ce que la garantie des trois Puissances, au lieu d'être restreinte à l'emprunt pour l'indemnité de guerre, soit étendue à la somme nécessaire pour couvrir le déficit de 1897.

2. Qu'il y aurait inconvénient à étendre la même garantie aux sommes nécessaires :—

(*a.*) Pour poruvoir aux paiements à faire en 1898 aux porteurs de la dette actuelle ;

(*b.*) Pour réaliser la conversion de la dette flottante en or ;

(*c.*) Pour couvrir les déficits prévus des années 1898 et suivantes.

3. Que l'Emprunt Garanti devrait ainsi s'élever au chiffre effectif d'environ 123,000,000 fr. ; ce qui, en admettant des titres $2\frac{3}{4}$ pour cent, émis à $97\frac{1}{2}$, représenterait un capital nominal de 126,000,000 fr.

4. Que, pour assurer l'amortissement de cet emprunt en cinquante-sept ans, la charge de la Grèce devrait être calculée à $3\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent au minimum sur 126,000,000 fr.

5. Que le système de la garantie collective et solidaire doit être préféré à celui de garanties distinctes pour chaque Puissance, s'appliquant chaeune à une quote-part de l'emprunt.

6. Qu'il convient de réserver la faculté pour la Grèce de rembourser ou de convertir, après l'expiration d'une période de dix ans, l'Emprunt Garanti amortissable par rachat ou tirages, ainsi que le droit pour les trois Puissances Garantes, après accord entre elles, de la contraindre à exercer cette faculté.

No. 106.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 19.)

(No. 6.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Canea, Crete, February* 18, 1898.

THE President and Members of the Christian Assembly called yesterday on Admiral Canevaro, who stated to them that Prince George's candidature was not withdrawn, but, as much time might elapse in negotiations, it would be advisable that a temporary Governor should be appointed in the meanwhile. They answered that such an arrangement, for which they formerly longed, had now become impossible since Prince George's candidature had been put forward. But some Deputies, expressing their personal opinion, said that, if the Great Powers appointed one of the naval or military officers now in Crete, his nomination could be accepted conditionally on the gradual departure of the Turkish troops, as this nomination, which could not become permanent, would pave the way for Prince George's. In my opinion, all depends on the withdrawal of the Turkish troops.

In the event of the appointment of an officer of one nation giving umbrage, the Council of Admirals might be invested with the power of extending their jurisdiction, which is now, together with that of the Turks, limited to 3 or 5 miles round the town, and much less round four small forts.

The Christians hold every other portion of the island, and, unless the international troops are sent in the interior, the only practicable plan would be to recognize some sort of official standing to the Christian Assembly, and by its channel appoint Justices of the Peace, who would deal with ordinary cases. I understand that the Christians in the Provinces of Candia and Lassithi have made such an arrangement, which works satisfactorily.

But in the other three provinces the character of the Christians is quite different, and, as murder is rife, a larger number of temporary gendarmes should be established in order to arrest and hand over the murderers and criminals to the international authorities in Canea.

As the trial of these prisoners would just now be impossible, they should be kept in prison until regular Courts are established.

In dealing so with a few murderers the bad characters would soon cow down or emigrate. But the decision, whatever it may be, should be taken without any loss of time, as things appear to be driving to a crisis, and fresh delays might result by the choice of a temporary Governor outside the island.

About 1,000*l.* would be required for the monthly expenditure of the temporary gendarmes, and this sum, which should be advanced at first to the Cretans, could, after a few months, be covered by the tithe and customs dues on the products now embarked in contraband to the exclusive profit of smugglers all along the coast of the island.

No. 107.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 19, 1898.

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 17th instant relative to the proposed guarantee of the Greek Indemnity Loan by Great Britain, France, and Russia, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, for the consideration of the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury, a copy of a despatch from Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris,* inclosing a Report by Major Law of the proposals drawn up at the first meeting of the Delegates of England, France, and Russia, who are discussing the matter in Paris.

* No. 105.

It will be observed that Major Law asks for an immediate reply, by telegraph, as to the views of Her Majesty's Government on these proposals.

I am, &c.
(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 108.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.

(No. 27.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 20, 1898, 11·45 A.M.

I HAVE received your Excellency's despatch No. 97 of the 17th instant, on the subject of the proposed financial arrangements for Greece.

You may inform Major Law that Her Majesty's Government, while making no objection to the amount of the loan which it is proposed to raise, attach capital importance to the provision for the acceptance of the best tenders, wherever offered.

It is material that this point should be agreed to, but Major Law is authorized to use his own discretion as to the manner of carrying it with his colleagues.

The right to convert or redeem the loan should not be dependent upon Agreement between the Powers, but should be open to each of them.

No. 109.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 21.)

(No. 1.)
My Lord, *Candia, January* 31, 1898.

WITH reference to allegations that have been made concerning the prevalence of pillage by armed bands in this city, and to the statements concerning the recent desecration of a Greek cemetery, I have the honour to attach copies of letters addressed by myself to the Senior Naval Officer, and two other documents.

The cemetery referred to is a disused one; the only two in use, Catholic and Orthodox, are intact.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 109.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Sir, *Candia, January* 21, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report, for the information of the Council of Admirals, with reference to Séance No. 112 of the 17th January, in which occur the words "Dans l'intérieur de la ville des Bachi-Bozouks armés se livrent au pillage et au vol," that this statement is evidently due to some complete misunderstanding or mistranslation. Civilians have not been permitted to carry arms in the city since the commencement of the occupation. On the three occasions since last March on which acts of pillage have occurred, these have been by unarmed persons.

As regards the demand to replace the Governor Chefki Bey, I can only confirm what I wrote in my report of the 23rd October, 1897, a copy of which was furnished to you, Sir, on your last visit, and which is as follows:—

"I give the Governor every credit for the manner in which he has carried out my suggestions, and I have no wish to see him replaced by another Turkish Governor."

I can find no statement in my official reports to the effect of above-quoted sentence as to pillage, and if I have in any private letter conveyed any such impression, I have done so in error.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 2 in No. 109.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Candia, January 22, 1898.

Sir,

WITH reference to your letter of the 19th January *re* the state of the disused cemetery, I have the honour to reply :—

1. The statement as to the profanation of the cemetery, rifling the graves, breaking the tombstones, and breaching the walls are correct, and was embodied in the report of the local Consular Body in October 1896.

2. The Bishop must be well aware of this, and the bad faith of his statement of its having occurred under the eyes of international troops is evident. The desecration did not take place since the foreign occupation, as that of two monasteries and burial grounds near Canea, on which occasions I collected the "Ikons," had them transported to the town, and delivered them to the Bishop.

The report of October 1896 states some sixty-seven (or sixty-eight) graves to have been rifled and desecrated, and that remains the case.

3. The Consular Corps examined the cemetery on the 21st, and have ascertained that some damage has occurred since their Report of 1896.

4. I examined this cemetery in March 1897, and the only difference I have since perceived is the removal last autumn of the broken gate and possibly of a small amount of broken stone. The breaches in the walls since October 1896 were made prior to end of March 1897.

5. As regards the statement of shipment of human bones. I informed the Governor and the Senior Naval Officer last week in the sense of the attached statement. The former had an examination of the bones at the custom-house by Medical officers, and was, I think, present himself. No human bones were found. Senior Naval Officer and Her Majesty's Vice-Consul examined the vessel with the same result.

I informed both of the presence of the "Sinope" at Suda in case the Admirals or the Turkish authorities wish to examine her cargo.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 3 in No. 109.

The Bishop of Canea to Vice-Admiral Canevaro.

[*Undated.*]

Excellency,

YESTERDAY evening I received the inclosed statement of the priest Titus Tkonomes, residing in Candia, copy of which I beg to inclose herewith, so that your Excellency take notice and communicate it also to your colleagues the Admirals. I remark with an inexpressible affliction of the soul, that neither in the time of the most audacious power of Ghenitgars, the execution of such terrible juggleries was permitted, which now are performed by the Turks in Candia, under the eyes of the European occupation.

Being obliged to protest against the toleration of such unheard and inhuman abominable acts, I beg again in the name of humanity to take pity and to prevent the Turkish crimes perpetrated so shamelessly and fearlessly against the unfortunate Christians of Candia alive or dead.

I have, &c.

(Signed) BISHOP OF CANEA.

Inclosure 4 in No. 109.

Vice-Consul Calocherino to Consul Sir A. Biliotti.

(No. 56.)

Candia, October 6, 1896.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to state that the old Christian cemetery situated in a distance of only ten minutes from the fortress has been profaned by Mussulmans during the last disturbances, and last Sunday all the Consular Body visited it, and we found that

a small house where they used to deposit boxes containing the bones of the dead were forced, and the boxes taken away, and as the Christian guard of the cemetery told us the bones were scattered outside the said house, and that on the preceding day the guard had gathered the bones and put them again into the said place by order of the Archbishop. We accounted all the tombs built with stones in the cemetery, and we found them to be sixty-eight, all of whom have been profaned with the exception of only one tomb, and those which are not built on stone, but are buried in the ground into wooden coffins. The crosses on the graves were all broken, and the tombs all opened, some entirely and some partly, and near the entrance a place where they used to keep the dead on the first night was unroofed.

The door of the entrance was not entirely broken, but the Mussulmans opened a hole on the wall of the inclosure of the cemetery, and they entered into the cemetery, and introduced also into it cattle, as we found in it much manure of cattle.

I have, &c.

(Signed) L. A. CALOCHERINO.

No. 110.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 2.)

My Lord,

Candia, Crete, January 31, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship copies of correspondence between myself and the Senior Naval Officer concerning the issue of flour to the necessitous Moslem population of this city, and of a ration or some pay to the gendarmes.

As regards the former, as your Lordship will see by Inclosure No. 1, the Turkish Local Government propose, after the issue of the 12th March, to discontinue the relief.

The necessity of continuing this until the refugees are either re-established in their districts or deported from Crete is evident, and I presume it will be incumbent either on the Turkish Central Government or on the Council of Admirals to make provision for this.

The reduction of the relief lists has already much accentuated distress here, and I would venture to point out the urgency of the relief supply being maintained.

I have, &c.

(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 110.

Ismaïl Pasha to Admiral Canevaro.

(Translation.)

Excellency,

Canea, December 30, 1897.

I HAVE shown your letter of the 29th instant to his Highness, and I have the honour to forward you the verbal statement which he made to me.

At the outbreak of the Cretan insurrection the Imperial Government hastened to institute at Constantinople a Commission to collect offerings in order to procure food for the emigrants from the country parts of Crete in the fortified places. The Commissions formed at Canea, Rethymo, Candia, and Lassithe, composed of Notables of the country, commenced to draw up lists of the people requiring relief, to whom they have up to the present continued to give flour and other things. But the number of natives in receipt of relief being very considerable the Central Commission at Constantinople has balanced its accounts and has officially declared to the Government that it could only furnish the flour up to the 15th instant. The Imperial Government considered itself obliged to subscribe again 15,000 sacks, destined to insure food until the end of February, and it has called on his Highness, President of the Commissions of Food and Clothing, to revise things, in order to remedy the abuses committed by the above-mentioned Local Commissions.

From inquiry made, these Local Commissions, instead of distributing the flour exclusively to the emigrants and to the most needy inhabitants of the towns, that is to say, to the orphans, infirm, old, and people who cannot gain a living, have favoured their parents and friends, so that we are to-day feeding beyond the 45,000 emigrants

more than 22,000 inhabitants of the towns, and, a curious thing, the quarter of Coum Capon at Canea benefits by 900 rations of flour, while the number of inhabitants of this quarter does not exceed 900.

His Highness, to remedy this state of affairs, has had revisions made in these towns, and while still continuing to give the emigrants the same rations as before, he has reduced, through the Local Commissions themselves, the number of persons who ought not to receive the assistance intended for the poor. But he has advised these Commissions not to go too far with these reforms, and even to tolerate the less needy persons, so that of the 22,000 inhabitants of towns, 978 of Canea, 1,434 of Rethymo, 2,944 of Candia, who were in receipt of this food by abuse has been struck out. However, everyone has still the right to address the Commission and claim justice if rights are passed over.

It is seen from this succinct statement that his Highness has been most clement to these people, but he cannot tolerate flagrant abuse.

As to the gendarmes they continue to receive their regular rations, but some of them under the pretence of being considered emigrants were also in receipt of the flour intended for the refugees. This being open to give rise to legitimate demands by the other gendarmes who have also returned from the country and from posts in the interior, his Highness has restored things to their ordinary course, and has ordered that double ration is not to be served to the gendarmes. All these arrangements aim at being able to continue distributing provisions until after the commencement of March. For, if after the month of March, no flour be given to the emigrants it is there that we must fear a revolution excited by privations and famine.

I would add to these considerations that referring to my letter of the 17th November only partial and insufficient pay can be made to the gendarmes since the taxes charged in accordance with the decision of the Admirals of the 30th November are destined to liquidate the debt contracted to the Caisse of the Surtax.

I have, &c.
(Signed) H. ISMAÏL,
Governor-General (ad interim).

Inclosure 2 in No. 110.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to Rear-Admiral Harris.

Sir, *Candia, January* 18, 1898.

WITH reference to your letter of the 4th January and its inclosure, I have the honour to forward the following observations :—

There are here, or due here, 5,540 sacks of flour, sufficient for two months' supply. The Moslem Cretan Relief Fund amounted, I believe, to 7,790*l.*, and has been supplemented by the Ottoman Government as stated.

Relief will be required on the same scale as at present, in any case until the end of June, and, after the harvest of the area sown in the environs, a great number of those in receipt of relief will still require it, as they have no share or interest in the future crops. It appears to me of some importance to make the Turkish authorities realize the responsibility for the feeding of their Moslem subjects, and that it is a serious and imminent one which cannot be evaded.

Many of the 2,944 people struck off the relief list are in great want, which is now most widespread. I do not consider it a politic measure depriving them of relief in mid-winter, and it has added to the discontent and general difficulties of the situation. The Governor agrees with me on this point.

No gendarmes are now in receipt of relief. They only receive a month's pay at very rare intervals, and do not receive a ration. As they are under the Turkish War Office, though on a different Budget, it might be possible for the Turkish military authorities to arrange to issue them a ration to be deducted from their salary.

The amount of the 3 per cent. Surplus Custom Tax of Candia is forwarded to Canea. For Candia alone, exclusive of Sitia, &c., it exceeds 200*l.* per month, and for the past four months has averaged 360*l.** If this sum, or a portion of it, was applied

* September, 30,771 prs. 6 p.; October, 26,307 prs. 2 p.; November, 64,221 prs. 8 p.; December, 47,121 prs. 1 p.

to paying half the monthly pay of the gendarmes, as at Canea, it would be an appreciable assistance to the numerous difficulties of the Local Government.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HERBERT CHERMSIDE.

No. 111.

Lieutenant-Colonel Trotter to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 7.)
My Lord, *Bucharest, February* 9, 1898.

REFERRING to my No. 179 of the 8th December and No. 182 of the 13th December, 1897, I have the honour to state that as a sequel to my note No. 72 to the Minister of Foreign Affairs (copy of which was inclosed in my No. 179 to your Lordship), the Roumanian Government has awarded and paid the sum of 1,000 fr. (40*l.*) to M. Greenberg as compensation for the losses sustained by him in the recent anti-Jewish riots at Bucharest.

In the original claim submitted by M. Greenberg, and transmitted by me to the Roumanian Foreign Office, he estimated the damage done at 5,000 fr.; but I had reason to believe that his losses were greatly exaggerated, and a careful personal examination of his shop and magazines left me under the impression that 1,000 fr. would fully compensate him for his losses, so that I consider that the Roumanian Government has acted very fairly and liberally in the matter.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HENRY TROTTER.

No. 112.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 94.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 15, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a note which the Sublime Porte has addressed to the Austrian Embassy, stating that there has been no movement of Turkish troops in Thessaly to any point outside the area already occupied, and transmitting a telegram from the Ottoman Minister at Athens on the subject.

I have, &c.
(Signed) PHILIP CURRIE.

Inclosure 1 in No. 112.

Note Verbale.

EN réponse à la communication que les Ambassades des Grandes Puissances ont bien voulu lui adresser en date d'hier, le Ministère des Affaires Étrangères s'empresse de les informer qu'il n'y a eu aucun mouvement de troupes Impériales sur les points de la Thessalie qui ne sont pas situés dans la zone occupée par l'armée Impériale. Seulement les habitants de quelques villages sis en deçà de la ligne militaire ayant refusé de payer les redevances fiscales et tiré même sur les troupes Ottomanes, les autorités Impériales ont dû prendre certaines mesures pour assurer la rentrée des impôts et du raffermissement de l'ordre et de la sécurité publique dans ces parages. Les troupes Impériales n'ont point fait usage de leurs armes en cette circonstance.

Ce qui précède est confirmé par une communication que M. Zaïmis a faite à cet égard au Ministre de Turquie à Athènes.

Le Ministère Impérial ne pourra mieux faire que de transmettre ci-près aux Ambassades des Grandes Puissances, pour leur édification, copie du télégramme qu'il vient de recevoir à ce sujet de Rifaat Bey.

Sublime Porte, le 12 *Février*, 1898.

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represented the matter to the Vali of Salonica, Riza Pasha, and his Excellency at once promised to telegraph to the Kaïmakam of Cavalla ordering his release, and, as Mr. Pecchiolo reports, the Dragoman is now at liberty.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure 2 in No. 123.

Vice-Consul Pecchioli to Consul-General Blunt.

(Extrait.)

Cavalla, le 9 Février, 1898.

GRACE à votre intervention officielle ou officieuse près du Vali de Salonique en faveur du Drogman du Vice-Consulat Hellénique de Cavalla, M. Sterio Fessa, celui-ci a été mis en liberté, ce qui a produit le meilleur résultat possible et désirable. M. Fessa était parti de Cavalla pour Athènes pour des affaires personnelles, muni d'un passeport que les autorités Ottomanes avaient trouvé bon et valide puisqu'elles l'avaient visé. Il est revenu ici avec un passeport pareil visé par le Consul Ottoman du Pirée. Donc il était en parfaite règle, et on l'avait emprisonné et on voulait lui chercher querelle dans le seul but de lui soustraire de l'argent.

Le coup mal monté n'a pas réussi et M. Sterio Fessa tient à vous présenter par mon canal des remerciements les plus vifs.

No. 124.

Consul-General Blunt to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 14.)

My Lord,

Salonica, February 16, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith, for your Lordship's information, a copy of my despatch to Sir Philip Currie reporting the departure for Uscub of a Military Commission, under the Ferik Saadeddin Pasha, to try the numerous Bulgarians imprisoned in the Vilayet of Kossova on charges of sedition.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

Inclosure in No. 124.

Consul-General Blunt to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 34.)

Sir,

Salonica, February 16, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report to your Excellency that the Ferik Saadeddin Pasha and five military officers, including two aides-de-camp of the Sultan, arrived here yesterday evening from Constantinople and left by this morning's train for Uscub.

I am informed that the above officers, as well as Enver Pasha, Governor of Volo, have been appointed by the Sultan members of a Military Court which is to be assembled at Uscub for the trial of the numerous Bulgarians who are imprisoned in the Vilayet of Kossova on suspicion of being implicated in seditious movements.

I have, &c.
(Signed) J. E. BLUNT.

No. 125.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 18.)

My Lord,

Belgrade, February 15, 1898.

THE excitement caused by the pretended disclosure of Russian and Bulgarian designs on Macedonia has died down, and the Minister for Foreign Affairs, whom I saw for a few moments on Thursday, seemed inclined to take a less despondent view of the situation than he had done at the interview which I did myself the honour of reporting in my despatch to your Lordship No. 15 of the 3rd instant.

The Servian press, if not friendly towards Bulgaria, has become more reasonable in its tone, and the Bulgarian Agent tells me that a gratifying improvement has taken place in his relations with Dr. Vladan Georgévitch.

A note has been addressed by Mr. Gheorgieff to the Servian Minister on the subject of three Bulgarians who were shot at the end of last month, some 30 yards within the Servian frontier, whilst apparently engaged in smuggling a cask of spirits.

No reply has so far been made by M. Georgévitch, but the Bulgarian Agent does not seem to anticipate any serious complications from the incident.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

No. 126.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 19. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 18, 1898.

THE German Minister, Baron Wæcker Gotter, informed me yesterday that he considers the prospects of the present Government in Servia to be much more assured now that the first effects of Russia's anger at King Milan's return have passed.

M. Wæcker Gotter, who has been in the King's confidence during recent events, says that the displeasure of the Emperor of Russia at ex-King Milan's nomination as Commander-in-chief was expressed to the Servian Representative in such strong terms that the resolution of the ex-King himself was shaken, and it was on his (M. Wæcker Gotter's) advice that their Majesties decided to persevere in their policy, and trust to the storm blowing over.

The Russian Chargé d'Affaires has explained to me that the anger of his Government was especially provoked by the fact that before ex-King Milan's return King Alexander had twice spontaneously assured M. Tswolski, the late Russian Minister, that his father would take no share in public affairs.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

No. 127.

Mr. Macdonald to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 20.)
My Lord, *Belgrade, February* 18, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to report that Mgr. Michael, the Metropolitan of Servia, died of pneumonia in the early hours of yesterday morning.

The deceased Prelate was born on the 31st August, 1826, in the Servian village of Coko Bania, where he received the rudiments of his education. He afterwards studied at Zaitchar and Negotine, from whence, in 1842, he entered the Belgrade School of Theology.

In 1846 Miloïe Jovanovitch (the late Metropolitan's lay name) received a Bursarship in the Russian Seminary at Kiev, which he left in 1849 for the Theological Academy of the same place, quitting the latter institution in 1853 with the degree of a Master of Theology and the first annual prize.

Mgr. Michael took monastic orders in 1853, and the following year returned to Servia, where he was first appointed Professor at the School of Theology, and afterwards Abbot of the Monastery of Stoudenitsa (the chief monastery in Servia). In October 1854 he was consecrated Bishop of Shabatz, and was in occupation of the See in 1858 when the restoration of the Obrenovitch Dynasty to the Throne of Servia took place.

The Metropolitan (Peter) having quitted Servia with the Karageorgevitches, Bishop Michael was elected his successor, and filled the office of Metropolitan until 1881, when he was deprived of his functions by Prince Milan and the Progressist Government.

In 1883 he took refuge in Russia, but returned in 1889 to resume his place as Head of the Servian Church.

Mgr. Michael, whose connection with the history of Servia has been marked by his

partisanship of Russia and opposition to King Milan (particularly to the latter's petition for divorce), has lately been on good terms with the ex-King.

It is thought probable that the choice of a successor to the late Metropolitan will light upon Dimitri, some time Bishop of Nisch and now retired. The interest of Russia will weigh considerably in the election.

I have, &c.
(Signed) RANALD D. G. MACDONALD.

No. 128.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 25.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 16, 1898.

IN my despatch No. 218 of the 9th December, 1897, I had the honour to report that it had been arranged that the Prince and Princess of Bulgaria should pay a visit to Bucharest in the course of the present month. Nothing further, however, has been said about the visit on either side, and the Roumanian Agent thinks it curious that not only has the Prince made no attempt to fix a date for it, but that he has not suggested that he should take Bucharest on the way to St. Petersburgh, where, as I had the honour to state in my despatch No. 23 of the 11th instant, His Royal Highness is to arrive on the 14th March.

Prince Ghika thinks it not improbable that if Prince Ferdinand should offer himself at Bucharest after his return from Russia King Charles will cause him to be informed that the moment is not convenient.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 129.

Mr. Elliot to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 26. Confidential.)
My Lord, *Sophia, February* 17, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 21 of the 10th instant, on the subject of the Bulgarian representations at Constantinople with regard to the outrages in Northern Macedonia, I have the honour to state that M. Stoïloff tells me that the Sultan has now promised an amnesty to the Bulgarians compromised by the discovery of concealed arms, and has ordered the punishment of the Kaïmakams who have been guilty of cruelty. His Excellency has no doubt that the intervention of several of the Ambassadors—Sir Philip Currie among them—has greatly contributed to this result.

M. Stoïloff says that he has noticed in more than one Russian paper articles written in the tone that prevailed in 1876, making, indeed, direct comparisons between the recent outrages and those of Batak; and that he has directed M. Marcoff to call the attention of the Turkish Government to these articles, and to point out the danger of giving occasion for Russian intervention by such proceedings as those complained of.

To my remark that the difference in the conditions makes direct Russian intervention more difficult in Macedonia to-day than it was in Bulgaria in 1877, his Excellency replied that if there was a previous understanding with Austria there would be no difficulty.

M. Stoïloff expresses a vague uneasiness lest M. Zinovieff should follow in the footsteps of General Ignatieff, although, as he admits, he has not yet any definite grounds for anticipating trouble.

I have, &c.
(Signed) F. ELLIOT.

No. 130.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 21.)

Sir,

Treasury Chambers, February 19, 1898.

IN reply to your letter of the 18th instant, relative to the proposal of the Marquess of Salisbury to afford relief to some 700 destitute Cretan Christians in the neighbourhood of Candia, I am directed by the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury to request you to inform his Lordship that, in view of the further explanations now afforded, my Lords are giving directions for the transfer of a further sum of 300*l.* (being one month's relief at 10*l.* a-day) from the Civil Contingencies Fund to the credit of the Diplomatic and Consular Vote, to be administered by Sir H. Chermside in conjunction with the British Senior Naval Officer.

But I am to add that my Lords cannot agree to any further extension of these grants unless accompanied by such steps as may place a definite limit to them, and secure the co-operation of the other Powers in the matter.

I am, &c.

(Signed) FRANCIS MOWATT.

No. 131.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 5.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Buda-Pesth, February 21, 1898.

WITH reference to the situation in Crete, the report made to his Government by the Italian Admiral of his interview with the insurgent Chiefs was communicated to Count Goluchowski by the Italian Ambassador yesterday evening.

The Chiefs declared to Admiral Canevaro that as the candidature of Prince George for the Governorship of the island had been brought forward, no other candidate would be accepted by them.

On two conditions, viz., the removal of Djevad Pasha and the commencement of the withdrawal of the Turkish troops, they were, however, willing to agree to some temporary arrangement.

If this were not obtained, they would retire to the mountains and defend themselves to the bitter end.

No. 132.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 21.)

(No. 22.)

(Telegraphic.) P.

Paris, February 21, 1898, 1·45 P.M.

I AM requested by Major Law to transmit the following to your Lordship on the subject of the Greek Loan.

It will be proposed by the Delegates that the best offers, from whatever quarter they may be made, shall be accepted, with the condition, nevertheless, that, in the event of one country making the most advantageous offer for the entire loan, then each of the other two countries shall have the option of a third part of the loan on the same terms.

The Delegates further propose that, if the three Powers demand it collectively, the Greek Government shall be bound, on the expiration of ten years, to convert the loan. But the three Powers now bind themselves, if requested by any single one of the three, to make this joint demand. With respect to the guarantee conditions the arrangements now agreed upon by the three Powers are to be strictly adhered to for the converted loan.

No. 133.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

(Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 21, 1898.

WITH reference to my letter of the 19th instant, relative to proposals drawn up by the Delegates of Great Britain, France, and Russia, who are discussing at Paris the arrangements in connection with the proposed guarantee of the Greek indemnity loan, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, a copy of a telegram which has been sent to Her Majesty's Ambassador at Paris after private communication with their Lordships.*

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

No. 134.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 7.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 6, 1898.

MR. VICE-CONSUL TRIFILLI reported to me on the 28th ultimo that, in consequence of the Mussulmans having complained that their olive trees outside the "cordon militaire" were burnt by the Christians, a Russian detachment, accompanied by the Vice-Consul of that nation and an officer of the Mussulman Gendarmerie, was sent between the villages of Yanoudi and Prassés, and, on the contrary, came upon Mussulmans feeding their goats on olive-tree twigs and burning charcoal with the thick branches of the trees. Eleven kilns which had been built for the purpose were demolished by the Russian soldiers. Many trees belonging to Christians had been thus destroyed. The detachment succeeded in arresting only four of the depredators (one of whom was a native gendarme), and sequestered fourteen beasts of burden and 200 goats. In consequence of these depredations and of sheep raids by Mussulmans, the Christians established guards to protect their property.

The Mussulmans having crossed the "cordon militaire" near the Village of Hromonastir, the guards fired wounding three of them (one of whom a gendarme), and captured fifty of their sheep.

In a preceding despatch Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli reported that the Mussulmans having begun to demolish the Christian houses in the town in which they were living, measures had been taken by the Russians to prevent the continuation of this damage.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

P.S.—The raid, mentioned in the Embassy's despatch of the 1st February, is evidently that reported by Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli as having taken place near Hromonastir.

A. B.

No. 135.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 22.)

(No. 8.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 8, 1898.

ON the 27th ultimo Mr. Vice-Consul Trifilli informed me that the greatest anarchy prevails in the inland districts of the Province of Rethymo, that hunger is in the number of the evils which have befallen on the quiet Christians which compels them to emigrate to Greece, that there are families living on vegetables, which they eat without oil and bread, and that there is a weekly emigration of ten to fifteen peasant families.

Mr. Trifilli points out that the Mussulman refugees receive regularly a daily ration of 80 drames of flour for each member of a family, or 1 oke (1¾lbs.) for a family

* No. 108

of five, and from time to time, rice, dried vegetables, and clothes, which are sent from Constantinople and other places for distribution by the Mussulman Relief Committee in that town.

On the 3rd instant Mr. Calocherino reported that the week before a number of destitute families who had embarked in sailing vessels for Greece had been compelled by stress of weather to return to the Bay of Aghia Pelaghia, where they were in great want of victuals. On hearing of this incident, the Consular Body sent them some provisions to which Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside added 5*l*. A few other families in distress left for Chersonissos and Sanicola for the purpose of emigrating to Greece. Most of them are the inhabitants of the Christian villages situated near the "cordon militaire," which were ruined since the beginning of the disturbances. Colonel Sir H. Chermside sent to those districts 30*l*., and gave 5*l*. to the Christians and 5*l*. to the Mussulman destitute families in the town, out of the relief money of 400*l*. sent to Rear-Admiral Harris by Her Majesty's Government.

Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino adds that, if the Council of Admirals decided to open the communications between the inland districts and the town important relief would be afforded to that part of the island.

Mr. Calocherino also reported that the Mussulman Relief Committee had at its disposal in Candia 8,000 bags of flour, ninety bales of clothes and bed clothing.

The Acting Governor-General has informed me that the Mussulman Committee in Canea had received numerous ready-made clothes for women and children, and that the flour and other provisions with which they were provided in this town were sufficient for two months. The daily rations of 80 drames of flour which is distributed to each individual represent 10 paras ($\frac{1}{2}d.$).

The rations issued to the Cretan refugees in Greece are 1*d*. each in addition to a loaf of bread per diem, and each individual is also given a blanket.

The following identic telegram was received yesterday by my colleagues and myself from our Vice-Consuls in Candia :—"It would appear that misery has attained its last stage in the districts of Pediada, Temenos, and Malevizi. Five hundred persons suffering from hunger emigrated a few days ago from different parts on the coast. Two hundred and fifty-nine women and children are, since yesterday, at Paleocastron waiting for an opportunity to embark for Greece, and other families will follow them. The partial help sent to them is not sufficient, and the future prospect appears under darker colours still in the districts, as well as in the town. We consider it opportune to call the attention of the Consular Corps to the situation."

Without speaking of the Christians of the villages round Canea, the condition of the population, especially in the western districts of the Province of Cydonia (Canea) where a great number of houses were destroyed in 1896, is the same, if not worse than in those of Rethymo and Candia ; there is a certain amount of distress, whenever, as in the last two years, some of the crops fail partly, but hitherto all the clamour in this, as in everything else, has been for Candia, for no other reason evidently than that province is occupied by British forces. Notwithstanding this partial failure, this, and last year's products such as oil, caroubs, almonds, charcoal made with olive trees, raisins, &c., having been daily embarked in contraband from every creek round the island by the Christians, and these products, representing, in addition to the yield of their own plantations, that which they gathered in the landed property belonging to the Mussulman refugees, the extreme general distress, now spoken of, if not very greatly exaggerated, can only arise out of speculation on the part of such native Christians who could dispose of ready money, and who are said to have purchased for almost nothing all the agricultural produce of the inland districts.

I have, &c.

(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

February 11, 1898.

P.S.—I have just received the following telegram from Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino :—"At Paleocrastron (the Eastern "cordon militaire") about 600 starving people are assembled, bread and victuals have been distributed, yesterday, by Russian Consulate. The Captain of H.M.S. 'Anson' takes care of the sick. Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside will send again relief."

A. B.

No. 136.

Admiralty to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 22.)

Admiralty, February 18, 1898.

Sir,

I AM commanded by my Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty to transmit herewith, for the information of the Secretary of State, a letter from the Captain of Her Majesty's ship "Hood," dated the 11th instant, with inclosures, relative to affairs in Crete.

It is requested that the inclosures may be returned when done with.

I am, &c.
(Signed) EVAN MACGREGOR.

Inclosure 1 in No. 136.

Captain Bromley to Admiral Sir J. Hopkins.

(No. 12.)

"*Hood,*" *at Suda Bay, February* 4, 1898.

Sir,

I HAVE the honour to report that on the 31st January I took over the duties of Senior Officer in Crete from Rear-Admiral Sir Robert H. Harris.

2. On the 1st February a Council of Admirals was held on board the "Admiral Charner" (French flag-ship). Copies of the séance are attached.

3. At a further meeting held this day on board "Alexander II" (Russian flag-ship), it was decided to send seven of the Moslem prisoners, who appear to have been arrested on simple suspicion back to Candia. These men will be sent back in Her Majesty's ship "Hazard" on Monday, the 7th.

I have, &c.
(Signed) A. C. B. BROMLEY.

Inclosure 2 in No. 136.

Minutes of Meeting of Admirals, February 1, 1898.

(No. 114.)

LA censure des télégrammes expédiés de Crète a été confié aux Gouverneurs Militaires Internationaux (voir Procès-verbal No. 99), sauf en ce qui concerne ceux envoyés en Grèce et en Turquie, qui sont restés sous la surveillance du Gouverneur Ottoman (voir Procès-verbal No. 85).

L'état de guerre n'existant plus entre la Grèce et la Turquie, les Amiraux estiment qu'il n'y a pas de raison pour continuer à traiter la Grèce autrement que les autres pays et décident:—

"Sauf pour les télégrammes adressés en Turquie, ou vice versa, pour lesquels la surveillance sera exercée par l'autorité Ottomane, le soin de la censure appartiendra exclusivement aux Commandants Militaires Internationaux, aussi bien pour la Grèce que pour les autres pays; ces Commandants Militaires ne devront laisser expédier que des télégrammes en clair, ne présentant aucune espèce de danger, et, ils devront être sévères pour les télégrammes politiques."

Le Colonel Chermside, dans une lettre adressée à l'Amiral Anglais, rappelle que toute la police de Candie repose sur la gendarmerie Ottomane, à laquelle la solde n'est pas régulièrement payée (voir Procès-verbal No. 110).

Il estime que l'on pourrait stimuler le zèle de ces gendarmes et en obtenir meilleur service pour la pacification, en leur payant, sur la Caisse de la Surtaxe, une moitié de leur solde, comme cela a lieu, à La Canée, pour la solde totale des gendarmes Albanias (voir Procès-verbal No. 98).

Le Colonel ajoute que le 3 pour cent qui alimente la Caisse de la Surtaxe a produit, dans la seule ville de Candie, une moyenne de 360 livres pour les quatre derniers mois, et que ces sommes ont été envoyées à La Canée. Il pense qu'il serait équitable que Candie profitât, pour sa sécurité, de sommes qu'elle contribue, pour une grande part, à faire encaisser.

Les Amiraux sont de l'avis du Colonel Chermside et décident qu'on demandera aux Ambassadeurs, par l'intérmediaire des Consuls, d'autoriser ce prélèvement sur la Caisse de la Surtaxe.

La même faveur serait demandée, si cela paraissait utile aux Commandants Militaires, pour les autres villes occupées; mais il reste entendu que si cet avantage, fait aux gendarmes Turcs, ne produisait pas le résultat attendu, les sommes retenues en prévision du paiement seraient reversées à la Caisse Consulaire par ordre des Commandants Militaires Internationaux.

A bord de "l'Amiral Charner," à la Sude, le 1er Février, 1898.

Le Commandant Allemand,
(Signé) WAHRENDORFF.
Le Commandant Supérieur de la Grande-Bretagne,
(Signé) A. C. B. BROMLEY.
Le Contre-Amiral Russe,
(Signé) P. ANDRÉEFF.
Le Contre-Amiral Français,
(Signé) ED. POTTIER.
Le Contre-Amiral Austro-Hongrois,
(Signé) v. HINKE.
Le Vice-Amiral Italien,
(Signé) N. CANEVARO.

Inclosure 3 in No. 136.

Telegrams to and from Senior Naval Officer, Candia, and Colonel Sir H. Chermside.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, February 1, 1898.

THE Council of Admirals having received no attested declaration from either the Lieutenant-Gouernor or yourself as to the names and offences of the four prisoners at Spinalonga, or the twenty at Canea, would be glad of your opinion as to their disposal and retention.

From Colonel Sir H. Chermside, February 2, 1898.

Admirals' instructions as to lists arrived too late for compliance. Names were telegraphed to Turkish Government, Canea, and Admiral informed. Prisoners were apprehended for being found armed contrary to orders or under accusation of complicity in or inciting raiding; will send further particulars. Think minor offenders might be released for Baïram. Governor here should be asked to submit names.

To Colonel Sir H. Chermside, February 1, 1898.

Calculate on receiving further sum of 300*l*. Cretan Relief Fund for Candia. None required here.

To Senior Naval Officer, Candia, February 4, 1898.

Two caiques, the owners' names being Ali Captan and Ali Tnrziri, left Sitia 2nd for Candia. They are suspected of having embarked stolen sheep near Phare. The Kaïmakam has informed Governor. A Jewish merchant, Isaac Arditi, passenger in caique of Ali Captan, could give information.

"*Hood*," *February* 4, 1898.

No. 137.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 22.)

Sir, *Treasury Chambers, February* 22, 1898.

I HAVE laid before the Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury the various documents relating to the proposed guarantee of the Greek Loan which have, within the last few days, been forwarded by the Foreign Office; and I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, with the views which their Lordships have formed on the different points raised in those documents.

My Lords have no objection to the extension of the guarantee to the amount required to cover the deficit of 1897, as well as the sums payable by the Greek Government by way of indemnity and on account of damages. The amount so required is put at 123,000,000 fr. by the Delegates in Paris. It might be well to make it a round sum of 125,000,000 fr. or 5,000,000*l.* sterling, leaving, presumably, about 20,000,000 fr. to be raised for further "economic" purposes by the Greek Government on its own responsibility.

At the preliminary meeting of the Delegates, it was suggested that the loan might be raised by means of a $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. stock issued at $97\frac{1}{2}$. This suggestion, however, proceeds on a very low estimate of the value of British credit.

As the interest on British Consols falls from $2\frac{3}{4}$ per cent. to $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. five years hence, the immediate yield of the stock to the investor is a very inadequate gauge of British credit, more especially when the redeemability of the stock at par in 1923 has to be taken into account. But I may point out that the British $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. stock, though redeemable in 1905, stands at 106; while the Metropolitan stock of the same denomination, which is a Municipal and not an Imperial stock, stands at 102.

It will be clear to Lord Salisbury that, regard being had to such prices as these which British securities command, the terms suggested by the Delegates would be turning the credit of Her Majesty's Government to inadequate account. It is not, of course, possible to determine beforehand the precise terms on which a loan resting on that credit, jointly with the credit of France and Russia, could be issued; but my Lords are of opinion that the highest denomination that could be fixed for the Greek Guaranteed Loan would be $2\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., and that such security should command a premium.

The considerable divergence between the terms suggested by the Delegates and the terms on which my Lords are advised that the loan could be raised, constitutes an additional reason for maintaining that subscription by tenders will alone give Greece the full benefit of the proposed guarantee, and they are glad to learn from the latest telegram sent by Major Law, that he and his colleagues recognize the force of this consideration by proposing, in accordance with the stipulation to which this Board attaches so much importance, that the most advantageous offers, wherever made, should be accepted. The Delegates add a proviso that, if the best offer for the whole loan be made in our country, one-third of the amount should be offered to each of the other two countries "under the same conditions." My Lords understand such a proviso to mean that, if the tenders covering the whole loan are highest in one country, the other two countries shall have the option of each taking up one-third of the loan at the average price at which the loan might admit of being allotted in the third country. To such a proviso my Lords see no objection, if practical difficulties are not found to present themselves, when the prospectus of the loan is issued.

Their Lordships have no wish to see an undue proportion of the loan allotted to this country. All that they desire to stipulate for is that the guarantee of the British Government should be turned to the best account in the interests of Greece.

In the opinion of this Board, the annuity which Greece should be required to pay in respect of the Guaranteed Loan should be, in any case, not less than $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., covering sinking fund as well as interest. The larger the sum available for sinking fund out of such annuity, the shorter of course will be the currency of the loan.

The liability of bonds to be drawn at any time during the currency of the loan has a prejudicial effect on their market price. Their Lordships would accordingly prefer that the sinking fund should be accumulated and applied at the end of the redemption period to the discharge of the whole loan simultaneously, instead of being devoted every year to the cancellation of bonds piecemeal.

My Lords attach much importance to a proviso that the guaranteeing Powers should jointly or severally have the power to convert the loan during its currency, and

they are glad to see that the Delegates recognize the expediency of such a proviso. But my Lords question whether it would be advisable to make the bonds redeemable within so short a period as ten years, for exemption from liability to redemption for an appreciable time, say, about twenty years, is an important factor in determining the price of a new issue.

At this stage of the negotiations, the only other point that occurs to their Lordships to mention is that they propose that, in this country, the issue of the loan should be conducted by the Bank of England, whose name in connection with the issue of a stock is not without its value.

I am, &c.
(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 138.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 7.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Canea, Crete, February* 21, 1898.

I HAVE been asked by the British Senior Naval Officer whether a decision has been taken by the Ambassadors.

No. 139.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 22.)

(No. 8.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Canea, Crete, February* 22, 1898.

I HAVE just received a telegram from Colonel Chermside, in which he says that finding himself temporarily Senior Officer in Crete he wishes me to visit Candia at an early date.

I shall comply with his request if your Lordship has no objection.

No. 140.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 11.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1898.

HER Majesty's Government have had under their consideration your telegram No. 20 of the 17th instant relative to the assurance desired by the Greek Government, that Her Majesty's Government accept the proposals drawn up by the International Commission at Athens for the settlement of Greek finance.

Subject to a trifling modification which has formed the subject of communications with the other Governments, Her Majesty's Government are prepared to join with them in approving the five documents, recommended by the International Financial Commission recently sitting at Athens, and submitted in the notes of the 8th and 10th ultimo from the Greek Minister for Foreign Affairs.

You are authorized to so inform the Greek Government.

No. 141.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Colonel Sir H. Chermside.

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 22, 1898.

I HAVE received your telegram No. 1 of the 17th instant relative to the relief of the distressed Christians near Candia.

300*l.* have been sanctioned by the Treasury, but no more can be granted unless a definite limit is assigned and other Powers co-operate with Her Majesty's Government.

No. 142.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 33 A.)

Athens, February 12, 1898.

My Lord,

THE Minister of Finance came to see me to-day, having yesterday failed to find me, to inform me, as he had already informed the Russian Minister, of the embarrassment of the Hellenic Government with regard to the following point.

The French Minister had been charged by M. Hanotaux to ask the Hellenic Government what form of arrangement for the guarantee of the Indemnity Loan they intended to propose.

This was embarrassing to the latter—to take the initiative was for this Government most difficult. Moreover, they had no precedent to go by, the loan of 1832 was included in a Treaty, and after consultation it seemed to them the best solution that the Financial Delegates of the three Powers should be invited by the Hellenic Government to come to an understanding to be subsequently approved by their respective Governments as to the form and condition of the Guaranteed Loan.

Mr. Streit, when I said that time might be lost in sending the Russian Delegate to join his French and English colleagues, told me that he had learnt there would be no difficulty about this; either in Paris or London a Russian Delegate would be specially named to confer with Messrs. Law and Dubois de l'Estang.

His Excellency specially impressed on me the great importance to this country of a rapid settlement of this question of the loan. Both the French and Russian Governments were informed of the above.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 143.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 34.)

Athens, February 16, 1898.

My Lord,

IN continuation of my despatch No. 33 of the 9th instant, I asked M. Zaïmis today if he confirmed the statement of the Turkish Foreign Minister, quoted in Sir Philip Currie's telegram No. 49, that the Greek Government had caused a contradiction of the false statements respecting the action of the Ottoman troops in Thessaly to be published.

He answered that he did not make an official communiqué, but caused representatives of the press to be informed of the inaccuracy of the previous reports.

I observe that in the "Acropolis" of the 9th and 10th instant, corrections were made (evidently in consequence of M. Zaïmis' advice) of previous statements respecting the Turkish movements.

The Turks appear to have entered villages which hitherto had been free from them; on the other hand it seems that some members of the old irregular bands were under arms against Seiffullah Pasha when he was acting against the marauding outlaws escaped from prison.

M. Zaïmis received a letter reporting that some persons had been killed by the Turks at Musaki, but he did not give me the impression of being convinced that any grave outrages had been lately committed by the Turkish officers and men in Thessaly.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 144.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 35.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 16, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inclose a précis (for which I am indebted to Mr. Corbett) of a trial which has engrossed the public here for the last few days, and has concluded by the acquittal of a midshipman who, during the last war, telegraphed to the Minister of Marine to accuse his Commodore of being a traitor, and to recommend the choice of two officers whom he named to command the Eastern Squadron of Greece. It was not for the offence against discipline, but for libel that Commodore Sachtouris brought his action, and indeed regard for discipline has rarely been a Greek characteristic, and the sympathies of the public appear to be strongly with the young officer. The revelations of the condition of the Ministry of Marine and of the squadron made during this trial must have given pain to those Greeks who are serious.

I have, &c.

(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

Inclosure in No. 144.

Report of Kokkoris-Sachtouris Trial.

(Begun January 28 (February 9), ended February 2 (14), 1898.)

CHRONOLOGICAL Table of Events mentioned in the course of the Trial.

Captain Sachtouris succeeds Commodore Reineck	February 20 / March 4,	1897.
Rupture of relations with Turkey	April 4 / 16,	,,
Squadron ordered to Skiathos	,, 7 / 19,	,,
First expedition to Leptokarya	,, 9 / 21,	,,
Expedition to Ekaterina	,, 10 / 22,	,,
Expedition to Agios Theodoros	,, 10 / 22,	,,
"Spezzai" joins the squadron	,, 11 / 23,	,,
Second expedition to Leptokarya (death of Lieutenant Autiniades) ..	,, 11 / 23,	,,
Flight of the army from Larissa	,, 12 / 24,	,,
Meeting of officers on board the "Hydra"	,, 13 / 25,	,,
Squadron starts for the Dardanelles but returns to Skiathos	,, 14 / 26,	,,
Ensign Kokkoris sends his telegram	,, 15 / 27,	,,
Commodore Sachtouris recalled	,, 15 / 27,	,,

The squadron under Commodore Sachtouris consisted of the three iron-clads "Psara" (flag-ship), "Hydra," and "Spezzia" the gun-boat "Alphæus," the "Miaoulis," and the "Canaris," with the torpedo flotilla.

NOTE.—I have translated the Greek word "semaiophóros" (French, "Enseigne de Vaisseau") as ensign, though possibly sub-lieutenant or midshipman would have been more correct. It represents the humblest grade of Greek naval officer.

The Greek term "Basilikòs Epítropos" (French, "Procureur du Roi") I have translated, for want of a better expression, as King's Proctor. He is the official charged with the prosecution.—V. E. H. C.

Kokkoris–Sachtouris Trial.

The trial was an action for libel brought by Captain Sachtouris, commanding the Eastern Squadron of the Greek fleet at the beginning of the late war, against Ensign Kokkoris, of the "Psara," who had on the 15th (27th) April addressed the following telegram to M. Levidis, then Minister of Marine:—

"In the name of the nation I denounce the Commander-in-chief Sachtouris and his accomplices as betraying the nation and not carrying out orders. Very many of the officers share this opinion. Hasten to appoint Admiral Canaris or Stamatellos."

Captain Sachtouris' action was originally brought four months ago, but on the motion of the King's Proctor the case was adjourned in order that the whole question might be thoroughly sifted at a later date. It came up again for hearing on the 29th

January (9th February) before a court-martial, composed of six naval officers under the presidency of Captain Murgialis.

Ensign Kokkoris pleaded that his telegram to the Minister of Marine was a true statement. He is a young man of 25. Captain Sachtouris is an officer of thirty-six years' standing. Before the war he was Director of the Naval School, and enjoyed a high reputation for energy and capacity.

Among the papers handed in by the King's Proctor were the following:—

(1.)

"*A Petition of Junior Officers to the Prime Minister and the Minister of Marine.*

"We, the Undersigned officers of the Eastern Squadron, respectfully report that we have entirely lost confidence in the Commander-in-chief, and that we consider it our duty to inform you of the fact, earnestly requesting the Government to replace him as quickly as possible. May we be permitted to suggest as his successor one of the Admirals in active service. Until further orders, we have the honour to state that we shall, as in duty bound, obey our present Commander.

(Signatures follow.)

(2.)

"*A Letter to Commodore Sachtouris.*

"*April* 15 (27), 1897.

"Sir,

"We beg leave to express our regret on the occasion of your recall from the command of the squadron, inasmuch as your action was deemed by all of us that most suitable to the capabilities of our small squadron, which impeded all sea communication for the reinforcement and revictualling of the army at Elassona, and kept in constant uneasiness and fear of a landing in its rear. Moreover, by the repeated destruction of the enemy's stores and by prolonged cruises it prevented the appearance of the hostile fleet, which remained terrified and in hiding.

(Follow the signatures of 12 superior officers).*

Captain Sachtouris was prevented by illness from attending.

The first witness of importance was M. Levidis, ex-Minister of Marine. He is a lawyer by profession, and had not held office before he joined the late Delyanni Cabinet.

He said that the course of events had early convinced him that his orders were either not carried out at all or carried out incompletely and ineffectually. He had frequently spoken to the Prime Minister, and even to the King, on the subject, but in view of the critical circumstances of the time the removal of Commodore Sachtouris had not been considered advisable. When, however, he became convinced that in time of war persons other than the Ministers of War and Marine were giving orders, he informed the Prime Minister that either Sachtouris must be recalled or he would resign. The King objected to sign the necessary Decree, but yielded when witness tendered his resignation, on condition, however, that it should not take effect unless the Commodore again disobeyed his instructions. This was on the 14th (26th) April. On the following morning he received Ensign Kokkoris' telegram, and Commodore Sachtouris was recalled.

Witness here asked leave to make a digression, and explained that as Minister he was not a free agent as he could issue no orders without the previous sanction of the Crown. He cited as an example orders agreed upon at a Ministerial Council, and given by him for the bombardment of Prevesa at a certain date, which had subsequently been overruled.

The orders given to the Eastern Squadron were (1) to prevent the landing of supplies, munitions of war, and troops on the shores of Macedonia, and (2) to destroy, when opportunity offered, the fortifications along that line, and thus create a diversion in favour of the Greek land forces. These orders might perfectly well have been carried out, but on one pretext or another none of them were obeyed, though Commodore

* The names of the officers who signed this letter are marked in the following pages with an asterisk [*].

Sachtouris had himself stated that a few shells thrown from the fleet had caused Edhem Pasha to detach 8,000 men for the protection of the littoral. When ordered to proceed against the Karabournou, the Commodore replied that he would do so at once, and then telegraphed to say that the Council of War did not think it advisable. Had he proceeded promptly to the Thermaic Gulf he would have been ordered to appear before Salonica.

Asked whether he had ordered any disciplinary punishment for Ensign Kokkoris, he replied that he had not as he was too busy at the time with more important matters. He added that by his act Kokkoris had rendered a service to his country.

Asked why he had addressed his orders to the Commodore and the "Commander of the Canaries" (Prince George) instead of only to the former as Commander-in-chief, witness declined to reply. His statement on that matter would be given from his place in the Chamber.

As to the efficiency of the ships, he could not say if they were capable of trying conclusions with a French or English fleet, but certainly they were fully efficient to carry out the orders he gave them. He quoted the opinion of M. Christmans, a distinguished Danish naval officer who had visited Karabournou and Salonica, and who reported in the middle of March (o. s.) that there were not more that 750 troops at the latter place, while the old guns at Karabournou were incapable of resisting the ironclad squadron. The same officer had informed him that the Turkish fleet was unseaworthy. All this information was confirmed from other sources. He had a letter from Commodore Sachtouris saying that everything was in order, that the squadron ready for action, and that he had even more than his regulation complement of men.

Asked whether the orders of the Ministry had been given with the concurrence of competent naval advisers, and whether there was any general plan of operations, witness said that no naval staff bureau existed, and that the whole organization of the Ministry of Marine when he came there was (using a Greek expression which I translate literally) "like the hair of a mad woman's head."

Asked to justify his statement that the Commodore waited for his action to be sanctioned by another authority, the witness quoted the case of Commodore Reineck who went to Crete with orders for himself, as Minister of Marine, not to salute the Turkish flag. The flag was nevertheless saluted in obedience to orders from the Prime Minister, and in deference to the representations of foreign officers and the Greek Consul. He considered the salute of the Turkish flag as a cowardly and inopportune act. When the British Blue Book was published he saw that the Prime Minister had said to Mr. Egerton, "Do not be alarmed about the Greek Fleet for Commodore Reineck has formal orders to avoid a collision." "Therefore," concluded M. Levidis, "I think I am entitled to say that Commodore Sachtouris too, took his orders from others."

Commander Argyropoulos,* Chief of the Staff of the Eastern Squadron, considered that Commodore Sachtouris religiously carried out his instructions. Twice only, once in Crete, and once with regard to Karabournou, he had not done so, but then their execution was impossible.

Commander Karbouni* was in command of a party of 155 men who landed at Platamona, most of whom were completly untrained. He believed most of the stores were destroyed. Many of the men were without shoes.

Captain Hadjikynakos,* who commanded the "Psara," and is now (February 1898) Minister of Marine, was the next witness called. His written deposition was put in. He stated that the "Psara" was short of her war strength by twenty-five petty officers. He did not remember having spoken of the Commander-in-chief as a "coward." He had been opposed to the recall of the landing parties from the "Alphæus" and "Mykale" before they had time to destroy the enormous quantity of stores at Leptokarya. He admitted that the junior officers had completely lost confidence in the Commodore, but he had done what lay in his power to support him and preserve discipline.

As for the orders of the Ministry he considered that they were out of proportion to the capabilities of the ships and the means at their disposal. No bombardment was ever ordered, he said, except with some distinct purpose. If the squadron had attacked Karabournou they would have risked being surprised by the Turkish fleet with ships disabled and ammunition exhausted by a purposeless bombardment. The squadron was prevented from proceeding to the Dardanelles by the bad weather and the injuries to the engines of three torpedo boats. He thought that Commodore Sachtouris had made some mistakes as a Commander, and shown slackness.

Ensign Kokkoris had served on his ship and he had never had the smallest complaint to make against him as regards discipline. He paid a high tribute to his capacity and talents.

Commander Ghinis* blamed the inaction of the Commodore and the ignorance of the Minister. There was no fixed plan of campaign.

The deposition of Prince George* was then read. His Royal Highness stated that the orders of the Minister of Marine were for the fleet to create a diversion in the enemy's rear—at that time the squadron consisted of only two ironclads and the torpedo flotilla, for the "Spetsai" had not then joined them—but on the 8th (20th) April they were informed that the Turkish fleet, consisting of five ironclads, sixteen torpedo boats and one torpedo catcher had sailed. On the 10th (22nd) April the Ministry ordered the bombardment of Karabournou, but there still existed a large quantity of stores at Ekaterina, the destruction of which appeared to the Commodore to be more important. Both the "Hydra" and the "Spetsai" were in want of ammunition, and a telegram was addressed to the Ministry asking that some might be sent as they were expecting the appearance of the Turkish fleet.

On the 11th (23rd) April, a Council of War decided that the bombardment of Karabournou was inadvisable at a time when the Turkish fleet was expected. They were already short of ammunition, and the bombardment would have weakened them still further; there was also the risk that one out of the three ironclads might be disabled. Moreover, the Ministry had enjoined economy of ammunition. The disaster to the Italian fleet at Lissa under analogous circumstances, warned them of what might happen.

The true business of the squadron, witness said, was to prevent the conveyance of troops, provisions, &c., by sea.

The coal supplied to the fleet was of the worst possible quality.

With reference to the orders of the Ministry for cutting communications at Dedeagatch, the Dardanelles, &c., such orders, witness said, could only have been given by a man without nautical knowledge, the field of operations was far too large. In his judgment the blockade of the Turkish fleet could not have been carried out. What would have been the position of the Greek squadron if the Turkish fleet had come upon them when they were attacking a fortified post like Karabournou without ammunition and tired crews? It only remained to sail forward to meet the Turks, and accordingly the squadron set out on the night of the 13–14th (25–26th) April. At first the weather was fair, but off Mount Athos they encountered a strong north-east gale, which made the advance of the torpedo boats impossible, and they were obliged to put in at Porto Sykia, while the rest of the ships returned to Skiathos.

At 8 P.M. on the 15th (27th) April, the Commodore informed the officers that he had been recalled, and witness then for the first time learnt the "unheard of act of indiscipline" of Ensign Kokkoris.

His Royal Highness's deposition ends with the following sentence: "Alas for the naval force of which the officers, unconscious of the necessity of the required discipline, commit serious breaches of it. The only result is the disintegration of the force, and the non-fulfilment of its duty for the glory and honour of the navy and nation."

Lieutenant Giatopoulos, artillery officer of the "Psara," said that the recall of Commodore Sachtouris caused undisguised joy among the crews. The ammunition was insufficient, and the shells empty. The "Psara" had fifty shells for each 27 centim. gun, and 100 for each of the 15 centim., and forty rounds for the rest. Not half the shells were filled. After the bombardment of Platamona the filling of shells was begun, but each time the permission of the Commodore was required. He refused it on the way to the Dardanelles when only half the shells remaining were fully charged.

The ships were unprepared and the crews untrained. Shooting practice was rarely carried out—twice only with ball cartridge. The men sent on shore at Leptokarya to destroy the stores were unnecessarily recalled before the work was done, the Commodore saying, "time enough to-morrow."

On the next day when the men were landed at Ekaterina, the greatest disorder and confusion prevailed, except in the detachment led by Ensign Kokkoris. On board the "Psara," at Oreous, the only exercise carried out was band practice. When Lieutenant Antoniades was killed at Leptokarya, he heard from the Commodore's Aide-de-camp that the former had exclaimed: "His corpse ought to be courtmartialled."

When the news of the army's retreat from Larissa reached the ships, a meeting of officers was held on board the "Hydra;" all the officers attended except those prevented by duty. The first intention was to bring the inaction of the Commodore to the notice of the Government. He blamed the retreat to Skiathos, and it was that act that had impelled Ensign Kokkoris to send his telegram. All the officers approved his action.

Lieutenant Mathiopoulos said that Ensign Kokkoris' accusation was true. The premature recall of the men from Leptokarya was owing to Ensign Kokkoris' detachment being mistaken for Turks by Lieutenant Karbouni, who reported them as such to the Commodore.

Some petty officers and sailors proposed to the officers to throw the Commodore into the sea.

No serious exercises were carried out from the time Commodore Sachtouris took command. When at Skiathos permission to fill the empty shells was applied for and refused, but the Commodore subsequently detected them filling them secretly.

Commander Zervos said he had no confidence in the Commander-in-chief. The return to Skiathos was unnecessary, the squadron might have remained at Kouphos.

Lieutenant Kakoulides said the high hopes raised on Captain Sachtouris' appointment were quickly dispelled. The crews were absolutely untrained, and he had heard expressions among the men showing a mutinous spirit. He reported the fact to his Captain, who said that he could do nothing, he (the Captain) was not the officer whom the men complained of.

On one occasion the attention of the Commodore was called to a passing vessel, sailing towards Salonica. He paid no attention. The next day he said to witness, "You remember the ship that passed yesterday? It had munitions of war."

Commander Mavromichalis* severely blamed the Minister of Marine who gave orders for the bombardment of Karabournou, the occupation of the islands, and the destruction of the Dedeagatch Railway, and at the same time ordered economy of ammunition and announced the appearance of the Turkish fleet. He also blamed the Minister, who in the midst of the most serious crisis found time to beg the Commander-in-chief not to take his orders from other quarters, basing his request on some service rendered by him (the Minister) to Commodore Sachtouris in some municipal election. The Minister was completely ignorant of naval matters, and his only advisers were a few lieutenants. The men landed at Ekaterina at once commenced to pillage, with the exception of those commanded by Ensign Kokkoris. The landing parties were simply untrained mobs. Witness himself had narrowly escaped being killed by them at Ekaterina. At Oreous, when the men were drilled, some tried to ram the cartridges down the muzzle of their rifles.

Ammunition was wasted at Platamona, but it might have been the Commodore's object to alarm the Turks by heavy firing.

Commander Canaris,* of the "Hydra," said that the orders of the Ministry were carried out as far as was possible. The bombardment of Karabournou would have placed the small ships in danger. The crews might have been better trained.

Captain Apostolis,* of the "Spetsai," said he joined the squadron with his ship on the 11th (23rd) April. Regular drill took place once or twice. The orders of the Ministry were carried out as far as they could be, but there was great want of coal, especially on the "Hydra," and that supplied was of villainous quality. It was impossible to bombard Karabournou at a time when the Turkish fleet might appear at any moment.

A member of the Court here quoted a letter of Commodore Sachtouris, stating that the squadron could hold its own even against a European force.

The witness replied that if the Commodore had written those words he might defend them at his own trial.

Asked if the men could have been efficiently trained in the forty days which intervened between Captain Sachtouris' appointment to the command and the outbreak of hostilities, witness replied with vehemence that they could not have been trained in forty days nor in eighty. Why, he said, in time of peace and under normal conditions he had known crews after four months' service to be still all topsy turvey. By political influence, he added, men got sent wherever they liked, and by political influence they could shirk naval service and get themselves removed to the dockyards, where they lounged about as porters.

M. Kovaios, telegraphist at Skiathos, deposed to sending Ensign Kokkoris' telegram to the Minister of Marine, who came to the telegraph office and conversed with Kokkoris over the wire for about half-an-hour. He stated that the Commodore was accustomed to address cypher telegrams to the King, but apparently received no replies.

Lieutenant Sachtouris,* Commander of the second torpedo division and nephew of the plaintiff, stated that all the orders of the Ministry were carried out except that relating to Karabournou, because they had been warned at the same time to economize ammunition and to expect the Turkish fleet. The stores of the enemy were all destroyed

with insignificant exceptions. He approved the return to Skiathos because the squadron would have been in a sorry position if the Turks had caught them off Kassandra, with nine torpedo boats, three of which were disabled.

Ensign Dosios said he approved Ensign Kokkoris' telegram. His signalmen were well-trained.

Ensign Papazapheiropoulos said that on the "Psara" in forty-one days after Captain Sachtouris took command there were only three hours' firing exercise, three hours' signalling, four hours' fencing, and one hour small-arm drill. Once the men were sent for exercise on shore, when they walked round for half-an-hour led by the band. 390 shells were filled, 299 were empty.

At Leptokarya Lieutenant Karbouris thought that the firing from the "Alphœus" was the result of a collision between the Greek landing parties and the Turks. He called out, "the Turks! the Turks!" The Commodore with a gesture which was anything but encouraging, ordered the men to re-embark, saying, when informed of the mistake, "Time enough to-morrow," and the squadron returned to Tsagezi.

Witness then proceeded to relate the subsequent movements of the fleet. At Ekaterina, Ensign Kokkoris was the only officer to keep his men in hand. After the burning of the hay at Agios Theodoros, they learnt that the Turks had detached 8,000 to watch the coast. Then, for the first time, the Commodore ordered all lights to be covered, no bells to be rung, but the search lights to be lit. During the return from Drepanon to Skiathos, the torpedo boats were in danger.

The telegram of Ensign Kokkoris expressed the opinion of all the officers, and witness regretted it was not he who had signed it.

He saw the Commodore tearing his hair when it was reported at Leptokarya that the Turks were firing.

On one occasion Prince George gave the Commodore a telegram in Danish; the latter handed it to witness to take to the telegraph office as there was some mistake in it. The telegraph clerk told him that it referred to Salonica and Karabournou. It was addressed to Prince George and the Commander-in-chief from the Palace.

M. Kovaios, the telegraphist, recalled, said that Prince George received telegrams from the Palace in Danish and French. Witness did not understand those languages.

Ensign Kritsas said he had no confidence in the Commodore; no proper measures were taken, and there were no drills. Orders to sail from Oreous were received at 11 P.M., but the squadron did not sail till 11 A.M. next morning. He had heard that the Commodore tore his hair. The news of the retreat from Larissa, and the grief it occasioned in the fleet, caused the Captain of the "Psara," speaking of Commodore Sachtouris, to exclaim in a moment of excitement, "he is known to be a coward!"

Commander Durutti, of the "Hydra," said that the want of all training of the crews, the slowness of the movements, the unfilled shells, the want of sufficient supply of water, all inspired him with a complete want of confidence in the Commodore.

He related how on the 13th (25th) April, a meeting of officers without any kind of pressure had been spontaneously held on board the "Hydra." He did not consider their action contrary to discipline as they only asked that Captain Sachtouris might be replaced by a far severer Commodore, Captain Stamatellos. At a previous meeting of officers, the senior officers had proposed to address a telegram to the Prime Minister, blaming the Minister of Marine, but the junior officers had opposed this course.

That the orders of the Ministry were not carried out was not due to the want of men to land—these would only have been necessary for the occupation of the islands—but to bad management. These were no patrols or reconnaissances. There was no plan of action in case of meeting the Turkish fleet. The return to Skiathos was unnecessary, the squadron might have anchored anywhere in safety, as a storm would have prevented the Turks coming out.

He defended the action of Ensign Kokkoris; for a similar breach of discipline another officer had only been condemned to five days' arrest.

Ensign Mauroudis took part in the officers' meeting, because the conduct of the Commodore both before and during the war had made him lose all confidence in him.

Witness related the delay in leaving Oreous. At Leptokarya and again the next day at Ekaterina, when the landing parties were recalled, without in one case destroying the stores and in the other breaking down the landing-stage, the Commodore said, "Never mind. Time enough to-morrow."

Ensign Athanasiades said that all the officers agreed with Ensign Kokkoris, and personally he envied defendant his position. In his opinion the movements of the squadron

had been a pleasure trip, during which they ate, slept, and amused themselves. The orders of the Ministry were not carried out. In his opinion they might have seized the islands. In Chios there were only 50 Turkish soldiers, in Lemnos 300, and on board the "Hydra" they had 80–100 spare men.

M. Levidis here remarked that according to the information of the Ministry of Marine there were at that time no Turkish troops in Lemnos.

Lieutenant Miaoulis, who commanded the lower battery of the "Hydra," said that not only were most of the shells empty, but the cartridges for the mitrailleuses were incomplete—some lacked one part, some another. On examination 800 were found imperfect. No exercises were carried out, and the bombardment of Platamona was simply target practice. When told that the coal was bad by one of the engineers Commodore Sachtouris replied, "We shall not require any high speed." He condemned the return to Skiathos, to which, he said, even Prince George was opposed. It was not till Captain Stamatellos took command that witness could realize that they were at war.

M. Poriotic, who was specially attached to the service of the Commodore, said that the latter never attempted to inspire enthusiasm in the sailors. When they were on the point of sailing the captain of the "Psara" had addressed his men, and the crew, carried away by enthusiasm, had wished to "chair" the Commodore, who, however, refused to encourage them or address a word to them. This was a small matter, but it was the beginning of their disallusionment.

Asked whether the orders to the Commander-in-chief were communicated by him to his officers, he said that they were communicated, but not by the Commodore. It was the custom of the latter to read out to the senior officers the orders he received from the Ministry, they were heard by the sailor servants, and by them communicated to the other officers. Witness himself was employed in the Commander-in-chief's office, and so saw the orders for himself.

At Oreous Lieutenant Theodorakis, A.D.C. to the Commodore, had asked him to draft a telegram to the Ministry, asking for maps, military works relating to Macedonia, a Turco-Greek lexicon, &c. The telegram was not sent as the Commodore considered the books asked for superfluous. He was reduced for information to keeping a file of the newspaper "Aeropolis," in which articles appeared containing valuable geographical information respecting Macedonia, the Chalcidice, and the country about Mount Olympus.

On one occasion in Crete Commodore Sachtouris tampered with a telegram from the Ministry which he was charged to transmit to the gun-boats "Alphœus" and "Peneius," by adding words authorizing their return to a Greek port in case of difficulties.

Witness stated that, when it began to blow hard off Chalcidice, he heard the Commodore exclaim, "Ah, come on, storm! come on!"

M. Diorides, Harbour Superintendent at Tsagazi, said that he had arranged a system of communication by which he was kept informed with great promptitude of the movements of the Turkish troops, he often learned them, indeed, before the Ottoman Commander-in-chief himself. He kept the Government and the Commander-in-chief in Thessaly informed. He also informed the Commodore, but "he did not care a farthing."

One day 500 men of the squadron were sent on shore to wash clothes. It appeared that these men intended to desert. As soon as he learned this fact he hurried out. On his way he met a bugler with a bundle of clothes on his shoulders. He asked him where he was going. The man replied, "I am going to have a shot or two where there is some fighting going on." It was with difficulty that Lieutenant Hadjikynakos and himself succeeded in restraining the men. About thirty of them subsequently addressed a letter to the Commander-in-chief in the following terms:—

"Sir,

"As it is not your object to act, we are going to get ourselves killed where there is fighting going on. We too want to fire a shot or two."

These men were courtmartialled and acquitted.

In witness' opinion the Commodore was deceiving his staff in the grossest manner. He also deceived the military Commander-in-chief (the Crown Prince) when he informed him that he had carried off the stores from Leptokarya, whereas he had destroyed them, or rather only half of them. On the complete destruction of these stores witness believed that the fate of the Greek Army depended, for the destruction of their chief depôt would have entailed the retreat of the Turks or their starvation.

In general, no attention at all was paid to the information he gave, though it was

absolutely trustworthy. On one occasion, when he wanted to explain some point with the aid of a map, he was brought a ha'penny map, such as are sold in the streets, in which the Penrios was indicated as south of Ossa.

When an important telegram arrived from the Crown Prince—the telegraphist told him that in it the Prince adjured Commodore Sachtouris in the name of God to save the honour of the country, for he himself was no longer in a position to do so—there was no boat to take it to the flagship, and he was obliged to send men down to the shore to fire off rifles in order to attract attention.

M. Poriotis, recalled, said that no such telegram had been given him to register.

M. Deorides, continuing, said that on Easter Saturday Commodore Sachtouris asked him to be good enough to procure him a little calf—quite a young one. He would like to have it on board his ship as a plaything. This at a time when disaster was overwhelming the Fatherland!

Ensign Panas said that one day he was called to interpret for M. Christmans, who stated that the Turkish ships were old and worthless, that torpedoes had been laid down at Karabournou, but at such distances as to be harmless, and that at Salonica there was only one Turkish paddle-wheel boat and another that was rotten. He added that he had learnt of the wretched state of the Turkish fleet from the officers of the German Stationnaire at Constantinople. A report to the Sultan stated that there were no Turkish gunners, that the Turkish ships were old, and that the Greek fleet could sail up the Straits by night and burn them.

Captain Apostolis doubted the truth of the last statement.

Chief Engineer Adam deposed to the bad quality of the coal provided, but the Commodore had said to him, "Take it, we shall not want great speed."

M. Levidis here remarked that, as the question of the coal was constantly coming up, he would remark that it was bought on the advice of a Committee of officers, but that they had been the victims of unscrupulous speculators.

Lieutenant Vratzanos said that the petty officers expressed the opinion of the men when they suggested that it would be well to pitch the Commander-in-chief into the sea and others with him. He had proposed to have torpedo practice, but was not allowed.

Lieutenant Kanellopoulos, commanding a torpedo boat, said he had only once been employed on reconnaissance duty, though his vessel could have patrolled the eastern shores. He did not take part in the meeting on the "Hydra;" he thought it contrary to discipline.

Captain Vokos* of the "Psara," said that in his opinion the position of the Commodore was a difficult one, in consequence of the confused and contradictory orders of the Minister of Marine. He could himself say from bitter experience that the Minister was always anxious to shift responsibility from his own shoulders. He discovered this when he was in temporary command of the squadron. He admitted that he had blamed the return to Skiathos, but he had no knowledge of the meeting on board the "Hydra" till it had been held, or of Ensign Kokkoris' telegram till after it had been sent.

Commander Theochari* said that exercises were regularly carried out. He was of opinion that the squadron might have remained at Chalcidice instead of returning to Skiathos.

Lieutenant Razikotsikas, commanding a torpedo-boat, said that what Ensign Kokkoris telegraphed was true. He had never received written orders, only verbal. Many of the orders of the Ministry of Marine were incapable of execution, but it was the duty of the Commander-in-chief to so inform the Minister. No plan of a possible naval battle existed.

M. Kapsampelis confirmed the testimony of preceding witnesses respecting the premature recall of the landing parties, &c.

Lieutenant Vratzanos said that the Commodore had never given any clear or definite orders. No proper reconnaissances were made. The squadron might perfectly well have remained at Kassandra, as in consequence of the weather it was impossible for the Turkish fleet to leave the Dardanelles.

Ensign Malikopoulos said that when the "Alphœus" went to Leptokarya a few shells put to flight some fifty Turks who were there.

In answer to a question from the Court, witness said that there was a ravine at a considerable distance from where the men landed, but that the nature of the ground was such that it was impossible for the Greek troops to have been surprised. The Commander of the "Alphœus" sent him to the Commodore to beg that they might be allowed

to complete the destruction of the stores, but he only replied, "We have time to-morrow."

On the next day the "Alphœus" was sent by the Commodore to ascertain what a small boat was doing. They found she contained provisions and hay, which they burnt. When he reported this to Commodore Sachtouris he said, "Who told you to burn them?"

Ensign Kokkoris then addressed the Court in his defence. That the orders of the Ministry of Marine had not been carried out had, he said, been proved. In Captain Sachtouris' defence it was contended that he had recalled the men landed at Leptokarya because he feared that they might be attacked by the Turks, that he did not bombard Karabournou because the Minister had instructed him to economize ammunition, that when he sailed for the Dardanelles he had been forced to return by the bad weather, and finally that he had returned to Skiathos for reasons that had been stated.

The action of the Commodore was paralyzed by fear and terror of responsibility. He could not explain the empty shells which he would not allow to be filled. He could not explain why no drills or exercises were carried out though the officers demanded them. He could not explain why he opposed the capture of a three-masted ship bound for Salonica, though he confessed next day that she was loaded with munitions of war.

From these facts he maintained that there was a deliberate purpose in the Commodore's inaction. His joy when the storm broke off Mount Athos, his reprimand of the cheers from the men, his annoyance at the bombardment of Ekaterina, all pointed to the same conclusion. Even the sailors wanted to pitch him into the sea, and the officers demanded his recall, and not only his recall, but that he should be replaced by a capable man.

In sending his telegram to the Minister of Marine he had been impelled by the conviction that the inaction of the Commander-in-chief was a disgrace to the national flag. In sending it he considered that he had done his duty.

The King's Proctor then addressed, and after some introductory remarks said that the question that he had wished to have tried was the question of the possibility or impossibility for the Commander-in-chief of the Eastern Squadron to carry out the orders given him. The Minister of Marine had, however, refused to accept his view, and it has been decided to try Ensign Kokkoris for "false denunciation," which was a crime at criminal law.

He allowed that the truth of Ensign Kokkoris' allegation had been proved, and consequently, though he admitted the breach of discipline, he asked for the acquittal of the accused.

The defendant's Counsel then addressed the Court recapitulating the proofs brought forward by the witness of Captain Sachtouris' incapacity and inaction. The real act of indiscipline was, he maintained, not that of Ensign Kokkoris, but that of the Commodore, who refused to obey the orders of the Minister of Marine.

After half-an-hour's deliberation the Court announced their unanimous verdict, acquitting of Ensign Kokkoris.

The verdict was received with enthusiastic approbation within and without the Court.

No. 145.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 36.)

My Lord, *Athens, February* 17, 1898.

M. ZAÏMIS told me yesterday that the Russian Minister had informed him, by instructions of his Government, that the Government of the Emperor would join Her Majesty's Government and that of the French Republic in a guarantee of the Indemnity Loan. This he looked upon as an official notification.

His Excellency expressed his most earnest hope that the French and English assent to the project of financial control, as well as a declaration that they would guarantee the loan, might be speedily given; it was most essential that the Chamber should be called together. The ("douzièmes provisoires") Grants-in-aid, for January and February, have not been voted, and since the beginning of the year the Government have been without funds and nobody can be paid. The only way of obtaining the money by

Royal Decree entails the prorogation of the Chamber, and to this, for the sake of the miserable and expectant Thessalians, he would not have resort.

To call the Chamber together without the assent of all the Powers to the financial arrangement, and the promise of a guarantee of the loan from the three Powers, would be to court defeat by the Opposition, and a Ministerial crisis.

I was told to-day by the French Minister that on the 15th the Minister of Finance had begged him to represent to M. Hanotaux the urgency of the situation, and to ask "that the Hellenic Government might be authorized to inform the Chamber—by anticipation—that the three protecting Powers are at the present moment decided in principle to give their guarantee to the loan of which the terms are now the subject of negotiation.

"Once this declaration made, the Government would lay before the House a Bill, empowering them to conclude and issue, under the condition of this guarantee, the loan necessary for the war indemnity, according to the terms which will be ultimately concerted with the guaranteeing Powers, and which will receive the sanction of a Royal Decree."

M. Bourée thought that it was essential to enable the Greek Government to meet the Chamber as soon as possible with the promise of the loan, as the position of the Ministry was really menaced by the Delyannists, who would seize any pretext to overturn the Ministry, and he had been warned that the impatience of the Thessalian refugees might be excited into riot.

Whether this be the case or no, I quite agree with M. Bourée that it is important that the Chamber should vote the law as soon as possible, and I told him that I was authorized to concert with him and our Russian colleague as to a written assurance of the willingness of our Governments to join in a guarantee of the Indemnity Loan. M. Bourée had not received any instruction yet on the subject, and appeared to think that if the Greek Government were specially informed that in principle the three protecting Powers were decided to give their guarantee, the difficulty would be met.

The Russian Minister had already received instructions to inform the Hellenic Government in writing that the Imperial Government would join in the guarantee; but had not yet done so, awaiting to hear from us. He had, however, sent in on the 4th an official note to the Hellenic Government, conveying his Government's approval of the Projet de Loi, Règlement, and Protocol, and to-day addressed a similar note, with the approval of the two remaining documents (the Convention and the Statutes) agreed to by the Financial Delegates.

As four of the Powers have now given their approval I venture to suggest that it might be possible, even should some minor alterations be thought necessary by your Lordship and the French Government, to avoid loss of time by notifying a general assent with the reserves on the comparatively minor points which it is proposed to modify.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDWIN H. EGERTON.

No. 146.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 23.)

(No. 103.)
My Lord, *Paris, February* 22, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to transmit herewith to your Lordship a despatch which I have received from Major Law, submitting copies of documents relating to the proposed guarantee of a Greek Loan which have been drawn up by the Russian, French, and British Delegates.

I have, &c.
(Signed) EDMUND MONSON.

Inclosure 1 in No. 146.

Major Law to Sir E. Monson.

Sir, *Paris, February* 21, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to submit copies of the following documents relating to the proposed guarantee of a Greek Loan, which have been drawn up, for the approval of their respective Governments, by the Belgian, French, and British Financial Delegates now assembled in Paris.

1. "Projet de Convention" between the three Guaranteeing Powers and Greece.

2. "Projet de Loi" to be approved by the Six intervening Powers, and accepted by the Greek Chamber, authorizing, under certain conditions, the issue of a Guaranteed Loan.

3. "Projet de Loi" authorizing the general conditions for the issue of the Supplementary Non-Guaranteed Loan (balance of the originally proposed Economic Loan), also to be approved by the Six intervening Powers, and accepted by the Greek Chamber.

4. Memorandum by the three Delegates concerning the communication to the Austrian, German, and Italian Governments of the various documents requiring their approval.

The above documents have been very hastily prepared under the demand for urgency from the Governments interested, and they are therefore submitted under reserve of modifications which may possibly be proposed by the Delegates themselves after fuller consideration.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. FG. LAW.

Inclosure 2 in No. 146.

Draft Convention.

EN vue de faciliter au Gouvernement Hellénique la conclusion d'un emprunt destiné, pour partie, à pourvoir aux indemnités dues par la Grèce à la Turquie en vertu des Articles II et VIII du Traité de Paix conclu à Constantinople le 22 Novembre (4 Décembre), 1897, et, pour le surplus, à liquider le déficit de l'Exercice 1897, les Gouvernements de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, de Russie, et de Grèce, ont arrêté d'un commun accord les dispositions suivantes :—

I.—*Émission de l'Emprunt.*

ARTICLE I.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique pourra émettre sous la garantie résultant de la présente Convention à un taux d'intérêt qui n'excédera pas 3 pour cent et pour une durée qui ne sera pas supérieure à soixante ans, la quantité de titres nécessaires pour produire une somme effective maxima de 120,000,000 fr., 4,800,000*l*., ou 45,112,781 roubles.

Les conditions de cet emprunt seront arrêtées d'un commun accord par le Gouvernement Hellénique et par les trois Puissances Garantes. Elles feront l'objet d'un Règlement qui sera sanctionné par Décret Royal rendu en Conseil des Ministres en vertu d'une autorisation législative spéciale.

ARTICLE II.

Les frais d'émission, de négociation, et de remise seront ajoutés au capital de l'emprunt.

II.—*Service de l'Emprunt.*

ARTICLE III.

Le service de l'emprunt sera assuré au moyen d'une annuité fixe calculée, amortissement compris, à $3\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent du capital nominal et fournie par les revenus affectés au service de la Dette Publique Hellénique d'après les dispositions de la Loi sur le Contrôle.

ARTICLE IV.

Les coupons seront payés en or, sur les places qui seront désignées ultérieurement, le 1er Avril en le 1er Octobre de chaque année.

ARTICLE V.

La portion de l'annuité fixée par l'Article III qui ne sera pas absorbée par le service de l'intérêt sera affectée à l'amortissement de l'emprunt. L'amortissement se fera par rachat au cours du marché. Lorsque le cours sera supérieur au pair, il s'effectuera au pair par voie de tirage.

III.—*Emploi du Produit de l'Emprunt.*

ARTICLE VI.

Le produit de l'emprunt sera employé par la Commission Internationale dans les conditions prévues par les Articles 7 et 10 de la Loi sur le Contrôle, au paiement à la Turquie des indemnités fixées par les Articles II et VIII du Traité de Paix conclu à Constantinople le 22 Novembre (4 Décembre), 1897, et à la liquidation du déficit de l'Exercice 1897.

ARTICLE VII.

Tout reliquat non employé de l'emprunt sera affecté à amortissement, dans les conditions énoncées à l'Article V, de titres qui seront annulés.

IV.—*Garantie de l'Emprunt.*

ARTICLE VIII.

Les Gouvernements de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Russie s'engagent soit à garantir conjointement et solidairement, soit à demander à leurs Parlements l'autorisation de garantir conjointement et solidairement le service régulier de l'annuité fixée par l'Article III.

ARTICLE IX.

La garantie des trois Puissances ne deviendra effective que dans le cas où les sommes affectées à l'emprunt sur les remises effectuées par la Commission Internationale, complétées. en cas de besoin, par les versements du Gouvernement Hellénique, n'auraient pas atteint huit jours avant l'échéance la somme nécessaire au service.

Les conditions dans lesquelles s'effectueraient les avances de garantie seront déterminées par un accord entre les trois Puissances Garantes.

ARTICLE X.

Dans le cas où la garantie deviendrait effective, une Convention ultérieure réglerait le mode de remboursement des avances versées par les trois Puissances Garantes.

ARTICLE XI.

Le Gouvernement Hellénique se réserve le droit d'opérer la conversion de l'emprunt, avec l'assentiment des trois Puissances Garantes, après l'expiration d'une periode de dix ans.

Il sera tenu d'exercer cette faculté sur la demande collective des trois Puissances Garantes, qui s'engagent réciproquement à s'associer aux propositions qui seraient présentées à cet effet par l'une d'elles.

La garantie collective des trois Puissances continuera de s'appliquer à l'emprunt de conversion dans les conditions prévues par la présente Convention.

V.—*Dispositions Générales.*

ARTICLE XII.

Les obligations de l'emprunt ne pourront être frappées d'aucun impôt au profit du Gouvernement Hellénique.

ARTICLE XIII.

La présente Convention sera ratifiée et les ratifications en seront échangées à le plus tôt possible. En foi de quoi les Plénipotentiaires respectifs l'ont signée et y ont apposé le sceau de leurs armes.

Fait à , le

Inclosure 3 in No. 146.

Draft Law ("*Emprunt Garanti*").

ARTICLE 1er. Le Gouvernement est autorisé à émettre, sous la garantie collective de la France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de la Russie, aux clauses et conditions de la Convention ci-annexée, conclue à le , entre ces trois Puissances et la Grèce, la quantité de titres nécessaires pour produire une somme effective maxima de 120,000,000 fr., destinée :—

1. A pourvoir au paiement des indemnités dues par la Grèce à la Turquie, en vertu des Articles II et VIII du Traité de Paix conclu à Constantinople le 22 Novembre (4 Décembre), 1897.

2. A solder le déficit de l'Exercice 1897.

Un Décret Royal rendu en Conseil des Ministres, après approbation par les Six Puissances Médiatrices, déterminera le taux, les conditions, et la date de l'émission.

Art. 2. Il sera affecté à l'intérêt et à l'amortissement des titres créés en vertu de l'Article précédent une annuité fixe, calculée, amortissement compris, à $3\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent du capital nominal de l'emprunt.

Le service de cette annuité sera assuré au moyen d'attributions proportionnelles sur les remises opérées par la Commission Internationale, conformément aux Articles 24 et 25 de la Loi snr le Contrôle et, en cas d'insuffisance de ces remises, au moyen des versements effectués par le Gouvernement, conformément à l'Article 13 de la même Loi.

Inclosure 4 in No. 146.

Draft Law ("*Emprunt Non-Garanti*").

ARTICLE 1er. En exécution de l'Article 10 de la Loi sur le Contrôle, le Ministre des Finances est autorisé à créer des obligations de fr., amortissables en années, et portant intérêt à pour cent, qui seront émises au fur et à mesure des besoins, conformément aux dispositions ci-après, en vue :—

1. De convertir la dette flottante en or.

2. De subvenir aux paiements à faire en 1898 aux porteurs de la dette actuelle en or, conformément aux Articles 1, 14, et 15 du Règlement annexé à la Loi sur le Contrôle.

3. A solder les déficits des années 1898 et suivantes.

Le capital réalisé par la négociation de ces obligations ne pourra excéder la somme totale effective de 50,000,000 fr.

Les frais d'émission, de négociation, et de remise seront ajoutés au capital des emprunts.

Art. 2. De ces obligations seront remises aux banques d'émission, pour les couvrir tant des sommes qui leur ont été empruntées en vertu des lois sur le cours forcé que de leurs autres avances en or, savoir :—

A la Banque Nationale de Grèce.

A la Banque Ionienne (Limited).

A la Banque d'Épiro-Thessalie.

Pour l'application du dernier paragraphe de l'Article précédent, ces obligations seront supposées émises au prix de .

Art. 3. Les formant le surplus de la dette flottante en or seront convertis en obligations du type prévu par la présente Loi.

L'échange se fera sur le prix de par obligation.

Les reliquats qui ne pourront être convertis en obligations seront remboursés en or au pair.

Art. 4. Les sommes nécessaires pour effectuer aux porteurs de la dette actuelle, les paiements visés ci-dessus, seront réalisées à partir du 1^{or} Juillet, 1898.

Art. 5. Les obligations destinées tant à pourvoir à ces paiements qu'à couvrir les déficits des années 1898 et suivantes seront émises en vertu d'autorisations législatives préalablement soumises à l'approbation de la Commission Internationale.

Art. 6. Le service des emprunts qui font l'objet de la présente Loi aura lieu par l'intermédiaire de la Commission Internationale et sera assuré au moyen d'attributions proportionnelles sur les remises opérées par la dite Commission conformément aux Articles 24 et 25 de la Loi sur le Contrôle et, en cas d'insuffisance de ces remises, au moyen des versements effectués par le Gouvernement conformément à l'Article 13 de la même Loi.

L'amortissement aura lieu par voie de rachat et, si les titres ont dépassé le pair, par voie de tirage.

Lors de la présentation à l'encaissement les titres sortis aux tirages devront être accompagnés de tous les coupons dont l'échéance sera postérieure à la date fixée pour le remboursement. La valeur des coupons manquants sera déduits du capital à rembourser.

Art. 7. Sont chargés du service des dits emprunts :

A Athènes.
A Berlin.
A Francfort-sur-le-Mein.
A Londres.
A Paris.

Dans le cas où une de ces maisons ou établissements viendrait à se transformer ou à cesser le service, le Gouvernement, d'accord avec la Commission Inrernationale, désignera sans retard une autre maison dans la même ville. Dans le cas où cette désignation n'aurait pas lieu dans le délai d'un mois, la Commission Internationale pourra provisoirement prendre les mesures nécessaires pour éviter toute interruption du service des emprunts visés par la présente Loi.

Il est alloué aux maisons et établissements une Commission de pour cent sur le montant de leurs paiements.

Art. 8. Les coupons payés seront annnulés par l'établissement chargé du paiement et remis aux Consuls de Grèce dans les villes où le paiement aura eu lieu pour servir à la vérification qui en sera faite par la Commission Internationale, de concert avec le Gouvernement.

Art. 9. Les publications relatives au service des emprunts visés par la présente Loi se feront aux frais du Gouvernement Hellénique.

La liste des obligations rachetées au-dessous du pair ou appelées au remboursement par tirages sera publiée dans deux journaux de Berlin, un de Francfort, deux de Paris, deux de Londres, deux de Saint-Pétersbourg, et deux d'Athènes. Il sera fait rappel, dans chaque publication, de titres sortis aux tirages antérieurs qui n'auront pas été présentés au remboursement.

Art. 10. Un Règlement élaboré par le Gouvernement, de concert avec la Commission Internationale, déterminera les conditions dans lesquelles les obligations émises en vertu de la présente Loi pourront être converties en titres nominatifs ou représentées par des certificats nominatifs.

Art. 11. Les intérêts des emprunts qui font l'objet de la présente Loi se prescriront par cinq ans.

Le remboursement des titres sortis aux tirages se prescrira par trente ans.

Art. 12. Les obligations émises en vertu de la présente Loi ne pourront être frappées d'aucun impôt au profit du Gouvernement Hellénique.

Inclosure 5 in No. 146.

Memorandum dated February 20, 1898.

LES Délégués arrêtent d'un commun accord le projet de Loi ci-joint, relatif à l'autorisation de l'Emprunt Garanti ainsi que le projet de Convention à conclure entre les trois Puissances Garantes et la Grèce. Ils sont d'avis qu'en vue d'activer la conclusion de l'emprunt destiné à la libération de la Thessalie et de prévenir toute difficulté ultérieure, il y aurait utilité, lorsque ces projets auront reçu l'approbation des trois Gouvernements, à ce qu'ils fussent communiqués par les trois Gouvernements agissant collectivement aux Cabinets de Berlin, Rome, et Vienne.

No. 147.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 23.)

(No. 56.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 22, 1898, 7·30 P.M.

ACCORDING to a telegram which I have received from Mr. Eliot, the Turkish Commission is about to proceed to Kumanovo.

They claim to have released 130 prisoners at Uskub. The head of the Bulgarian Girls' School, Manoff, who helped Mr. Amery, and was imprisoned in consequence, is among those released.

No. 148.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Consul Sir A. Biliotti.

(No. 1.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1898, 2·55 P.M.

I APPROVE your proposal to visit Candia, which was contained in your telegram No. 8 of yesterday's date.

No. 149.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 51 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1898.

THE Turkish Ambassador called at the Foreign Office to-day, and read a telegram which has been addressed by the Porte to its Representatives abroad, communicating the report of the Commission sent to Uskub to inquire into the alleged torture of Bulgarian prisoners in Macedonia.

A translation of this telegram is inclosed herewith, for your Excellency's information.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

Inclosure in No. 149.

Extract from the "Times" of February 24, 1898.

THE STATE OF MACEDONIA.

THE following official report has been communicated by the Porte to its Representatives abroad:—

"The President of the Commission sent to Uskub in order to conduct an inquiry into the facts of which the Bulgarian Diplomatic Agent found reason to complain has just telegraphed to the Sublime Porte that out of the number of individuals incarcerated in the capital of the province two only have been condemned, and that 134 others have been released after having taken an oath of fidelity. Nevertheless, it was found

necessary that another suspicious person should be sent to Ishtib, so that he might be subjected to the necessary verifications. At present there are no more prisoners at Uskub.

"The Bulgarian Agent declared that abominable tortures had been inflicted on Bulgarians, and he gave details. These individuals who, he said, had suffered the most cruel treatment, have been interrogated separately by the Commission, to which a doctor is attached, and it is beyond dispute that no trace of these alleged cruelties has been found on them. They themselves displayed astonishment and indignation at learning that it had been asserted that they had been subjected to these imaginary tortures. Some of them have even been sent before Mr. Eliot, Secretary of the British Embassy, now at Uskub, in order to allow of his examining them with his own eyes and interrogating them. The Commission has gone to Kumanovo, where it will continue its inquiry."

Constantinople, February 23, 1898.

No. 150.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir Clare Ford.

(No. 19 A.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 23, 1898.

THE Italian Ambassador called on the 19th instant and communicated a *pro-memoriâ*, giving the views of the Italian Minister for Foreign Affairs on the two alternatives suggested by the German Government for a solution of the Cretan difficulty, namely, either the nomination of a Commissioner delegated by the Powers to govern the island provisionally, or that the task of pacifying and reorganizing the island should be intrusted to two of the Great Powers.

Of these two suggestions the first, the nomination of a Commissioner delegated by the Powers, seemed to M. Visconti-Venosta the most practical, and in his Excellency's opinion it is to this, rather than to the second suggestion, that the Cabinets should give their attention. If all the Powers agree to it, it would only remain to examine the terms of the mandate and the conditions under which it could be carried out with the greatest chance of success.

The Italian Government wished to be informed of the opinion of Her Majesty's Government on the two solutions suggested by the German Minister for Foreign Affairs.

I have informed General Ferrero that if either of the two alternatives were agreed to by the other Powers, Her Majesty's Government would be ready to accept it.

But a practical difficulty, which it would be necessary to deal with, was the necessity of finding funds for the purpose of establishing an organized administration.

If the former of the two alternatives now put forward were adopted, the money required must, I supposed, be raised on the joint responsibility of all the Great Powers. In the second alternative, the two Powers delegated to undertake the pacification of the island would presumably be liable for the expense of any measures undertaken for the purpose.

I had some doubts whether all the Powers, or any two of them, were prepared to undertake this liability.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 151.

Tewfik Pasha to Anthopoulo Pasha.—(Communicated by Anthopoulo Pasha, February 24.)

(Télégraphique.) *Constantinople, le* 22 *Février*, 1898.

VOTRE Excellence sait combien la question Crétoise, qui traîne depuis quelque temps, a occupé la Sublime Porte et les Grandes Puissances.

Dès le début de cette question le Gouvernement Impérial s'est rallié aux sentiments de conciliation témoignés par les Grandes Puissances. Même se basant sur les assurances qu'elles lui avaient données en ce qui concerne le respect de ses droits de souveraineté il avait déféré au vœu qu'elles avaient exprimé quant à l'ordre d'un régime autonome à l'île, leur avait fait part de son désir sincère de voir s'établir en

Crète une situation normale propre à assurer le maintien de l'ordre et de la sécurité par la prompte institution d'une administration autonome sous certaines conditions qui sont la conséquence naturelle des dites assurances, et les avait même prié d'en hâter les négociations. Mais bien que nous ayons attendu la fin de la guerre et des négociations de paix, nous n'avons pu obtenir jusqu'ici aucun résultat. Maintenant que tous ces empêchements se trouvent écartés, la situation incertaine dans laquelle reste la Crète, qui, par sa situation géographique, est un des points les plus importants de la Méditerranée, constitue incontestablement un danger pour la paix générale, et occasionne un grand préjudice au Gouvernement Impérial. Aussi importe-t-il de ne point laisser traîner plus longtemps l'application et la mise en vigueur des points que nous avons soumis aux sentiments d'équité des Puissances touchant les conditions auxquelles nous avons subordonné notre consentement à l'autonomie, en nous basant sur les assurances qu'elles nous avaient données quant au respect de l'intégrité et des droits souverains de l'Empire, ainsi que l'adoption d'une prompte décision pour la sauvegarde de la vie, de l'honneur, et des biens des Crétois Musulmans.

La situation actuelle de l'île, si préjudiciable aux intérêts du Gouvernement Impérial, ne l'est pas moins aux intérêts moraux et matériels des Puissances qui ont à cœur le maintien de la paix générale.

Le Gouvernement Impérial, Souverain de Crète, considère comme un devoir de justice et d'humanité de mettre un terme à la misère et à l'oppression dont les Musulmans de l'île souffrent encore aujourd'hui, et aime à espérer que les Grandes Puissances, dont il connaît les sentiments de haute équité, voudront bien se rallier à ce point de vue. Comme nous tenons à voir la question Crétoise réglée avant que les troupes Impériales se trouvant en Thessalie ne regagnent leurs foyers, nous attendons avec impatience que cette question aboutisse à un résultat définitif conformément aux observations que nous avons maintes fois formulées sur la base des assurances qui nous ont été données quant au respect de l'intégrité et des droits souverains de l'Empire et aux exigences de la situation présente de l'île.

Nous sommes persuadés que les Cabinets, dans leurs sentiments bienveillants, voudront bien apprécier à leur juste valeur les sacrifices que le Gouvernement Impérial, comme une preuve de ses intentions pacifiques, s'est imposés jusqu'ici dans cette question.

Veuillez vous énoncer dans ce sens auprès de M. le Ministre des Affaires Étrangères et me faire connaître sa réponse.

Vous aurez à laisser à son Excellence copie de la présente dépêche.

No. 152.

Consul Sir A. Biliotti to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 9.)

My Lord, *Canea, Crete, February* 17, 1898.

IN a despatch dated the 10th February, with a postscript on the 12th, Mr. Vice-Consul Calocherino gives the following particulars concerning the distressed Christians in Candia.

In the number of 600 refugees, mentioned in the postscript of my immediately preceding despatch, as being assembled at Palcocastron (west not east of Candia as erroneously stated) are included the families consisting of 259 souls mentioned in the collective telegram of the Candia Vice-Consul's (*vide* my No. 8.)

Captain Wilson, of Her Majesty's ship "Anson," conveyed to Candia and pays the expenses there of the sick amongst these refugees, to whom medical assistance is also afforded.

The Candia British Relief Committee gave a further sum of 11*l.* or 12*l.* in provisions for the refugees of Paleocastron.

In consequence of orders from the Russian Consul of Canea, his Vice-Consul in Candia, who, on the 10th had distributed 500 lires in food to the Paleocastron distressed families, was authorised to expend a further sum of 1,000 lires in procuring victuals for the distressed Christian families in the districts of Malevizi, Temenos and Pediada.

Colonel Sir Herbert Chermside not having been able to obtain money from the Westminster Relief Fund in Athens applied direct to London for help. The Candia Christians are endeavouring to persuade their co-religionists at Paleocastron not to emigrate, but to return to their villages holding out to them the prospect that, besides

No. 151*.

Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 24, 3·30 P.M.)

(No. 2.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Crete, February* 24, 1898, 2·20 P.M.

IN reply to your Lordship's telegram No. 2 respecting the relief of the Christians in Crete, I would suggest that the sum of 300*l.* sanctioned by Her Majesty's Government should be remitted to Her Majesty's Consul, and that I should account to him as I do for the other fund to the British Admiral.

Considerable sums have arrived from the Russians and others besides the British relief. All the refugees except fifty have returned from the coast to their villages, these are being looked after.

the money sent by the British Government through the Admiral, further sums are collected by the Bishop of Cydonia and other persons for relieving distress in Crete, and that immediately relief will be sent to them in their villages.

I have, &c.
(Signed) ALFRED BILIOTTI.

No. 153.

Sir H. Rumbold to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 25.)

(No. 48. Confidential.)

Buda-Pesth, February 22, 1898.

My Lord,

THE Italian Ambassador told me the evening before last, that he had just received a telegram, the contents of which he had communicated to Count Goluchowski, recounting what had passed at the last interviews which the Italian Admiral Canevaro had had with the chiefs of the Cretan insurgents. They had declared to the Admiral that now that Prince George of Greece had been proposed for the Governorship of the island, they would accept no other candidate for that post. Nevertheless they were disposed, in view of the objections offered at present to the Prince's candidature, to agree to some transitory arrangement for the carrying out of autonomy on the island. They could only do so, however, on certain conditions. Djevad Pasha must be recalled from Crete, and there must be some commencement of the withdrawal of the Turkish forces still left there. If they obtained no satisfaction as regards these demands, they would withdraw to the mountains and carry on the struggle to the bitter end.

I had an opportunity last night, at a private ball attended by the Emperor, to hear what was His Majesty's impression of the Italian Admiral's report. The Emperor said that from the first, the sympathies of that Commander had been with the insurgents. He must allow, however, that the insurgents were not to be blamed for the excitement which the candidature of Prince George had revived in them. His Majesty further told me that Count Deym reported your Lordship to be rather in favour of two Powers, such as France and Italy, being deputed by the others to undertake the pacification of the island. That was a suggestion which had been discussed some months ago, and His Majesty seemed to think that if it were adopted now, England and Russia, as the most directly interested, would be the Powers who might best be asked to act in this matter.

I observed that I feared such an arrangement would be attended with some difficulty. It would have been a fortunate circumstance, I ventured to add, if His Majesty could have been prevailed upon long ago to designate some one of his many experienced officers to render Europe the service of pacifying and organising the island.

His Majesty took my remarks very graciously, but said that perhaps the simplest thing now would be to charge Admiral Canevaro with the task.

I have, &c.
(Signed) HORACE RUMBOLD.

No. 154.

Colonel Sir H. Chermside to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 25, 11 P.M.)

(No. 3.)

(Telegraphic.) *En clair.*

Candia, February 25, 1898, 9·45 P.M.

CHRISTIAN sheep-stealers on 21st cut out sixty-four sheep two mules inside Turkish regular posts. Last night made similar attempt same place, failed, but killed one Moslem shepherd. Christians on east to-day attempted raid against flocks of some thousands sheep. Turkish regulars intervened without firing. Christians then withdrew. No sheep lifted. No losses on either side. Governor present himself.

No. 155.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 16. Very Confidential.)

Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 25, 1898.

I TRANSMIT to you herewith copies of documents which have been drawn up in Paris by the Delegates of the Governments of Great Britain, France, and Russia,* who were appointed to discuss the arrangements in connection with the Guaranteed Loan to be raised by Greece for the payment of the war indemnity to Turkey.

I request you to communicate these papers in strict confidence to the Greek Minister of Finance, and ask him to favour you with any observations he may have to offer on their contents and wording.

You should report to me without delay, and, by telegraph if possible, any suggestions or criticisms offered by M. Streit.

You should impress upon his Excellency that your communication is of a purely informal character, and should be treated as secret.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

P.S.—You will observe that two drafts are forwarded of a Law for the Unguaranteed Loan. These are alternatives, the second being drawn up in general terms in case it should be necessary to pass a Law on the subject at once before an arrangement can be come to between the Greek Government and the Delegates on the various details connected with the conversion of the floating debt.

You should telegraph which of these two drafts is preferred by the Minister of Finance.

S.

No. 156.

Major Law to Foreign Office.—(Received February 26.)

Sir, *London, February* 25, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to inclose the following documents relating to the negotiations concerning the joint guarantee of a loan to Greece :—

1. A document drawn up by the Financial Delegates in Paris, stating their view on the various points dealt with in the Treasury letter to the Foreign Office, dated the 22nd February.

2. A draft for a collective note to the three intervening Powers not directly interested in the guarantee.

3. Proposals for additions to the Règlement appended to the Law of Control, prepared with a view of giving satisfaction to the British demands in favour of the holders of Funding Loan bonds.

4. An alternative Projet de Loi, authorizing tke issue of the Unguaranteed Loan, prepared for the approval of the Six intervening Powers, and the acceptance of the Greek Chamber.

As regards No. 1, it will be observed that the Delegates accept in principle nearly all the views expressed by the Treasury in the letter above referred to. The only point on which there is a real difficulty in principle is the proposal that the sinking fund of the loan should be accumulative, and that the loan should be repaid in its entiretv at the end of its period of currency, instead of continuous partial repayments by purchase in the market, and drawings.

If the sinking fund is to be accumulative, the money must be invested during the whole of the long period of currency, and the International Commission of Control would have to accept the responsibility for the investments. The selection of investments, and the acceptance of responsibility for their results by an international body must inevitably give rise to the gravest difficulties in practice.

The alternative Projet de Loi for the Unguaranteed Loan has been prepared to enable

* Projet de Convention; Projet de Loi (Emprunt Garanti); Projet de Loi (Emprunt Non-Garanti); Projet de Loi (alternative).—(Communicated by Major Law).

the Greek Government to propose such a Law to the Greek Chamber, simultaneously with the proposals regarding the Guaranteed Loan, should such a course be considered advisable in Athens.

It is feared that a more complete Projet de Loi, such as submitted in my letter of the 21st February to Sir E. Monson, might open up certain questions of detail which it would be most difficult to settle by correspondence.

I may add that at the request of the French Finance Minister I have drawn up a series of Tables representing estimated Greek Budgets for the years 1898 to 1903. These Tables have been drawn up on the same lines as those presented in the Report of the Athens Financial Commission, but on the assumption that the charge for a Guaranteed Loan of 5,000,000*l.* would be $3\frac{1}{2}$ per cent., including sinking fund, and that the Unguaranteed Loan could be raised at 5 per cent., including sinking fund. The result is to show that the amount of the Unguaranteed Loan can be reduced to 16,000,000 fr., and that there would be a substantial surplus in the year 1903.

It will, of course, be understood that calculations necessarily involving so many hypotheses are only submittrd as affording indications of the possibilities of the future.

I have, &c.
(Signed) E. FG. LAW.

Inclosure 1 in No. 156.

Memorandum drawn up by the Financial Delegates at their Meeting in Paris, February 23, 1898.

LES Délégués, après avoir pris connaissance des observations de la Trésorerie Anglaise, émettent les avis suivants :—

1. Le taux de $2\frac{3}{4}$ pour cent et le prix d'émissiou de $97\frac{1}{2}$ n'ont été mentionnés par les Délégués qu'à titre d'indication générale, et sous réserve d'un examen plus approfondi des conditions du crédit attaché à la garantie collective des trois Puissances. Ils ont été amenés à cette appréciation provisoire par le cours du 3 pour cent Égyptien garanti, qui est actuellement à 108. Ils ont en même temps tenu compte de cette considération que l'émission d'un nouveau fonds ne peut pas se faire au prix que l'on obtient sur le marché par la vente d'un titre ancien et classé. Ils sont portés à admettre que le type $2\frac{1}{2}$ pour cent peut présenter des avantages sur le type $2\frac{3}{4}$ pour cent et se réservent d'examiner la question au moyen des renseignements qu'ils recueilleront.

2. En ce qui concerne le taux de la charge annuelle à supporter par le Gouvernement Hellénique, les Délégués ont donné par avance satisfaction aux observations du Gouvernement Britannique puisqu'ils ont inséré dans le projet de Loi et dans le projet de Convention qu'ils ont élaborés, le principe d'une annuité fixe évaluée à 3·50 du capital nominal de l'emprunt.

3. Quant à la proposition consistant à capitaliser les sommes destinées à rembourser l'emprunt et à ajourner le remboursement des titres, les Délégués sont d'avis qu'elle présenterait des inconvénients, et créerait de sérieuses difficultés pour le placement et la gestion des fonds pendant une période prolongée.

4. Relativement à la durée de la période durant laquelle l'emprunt ne pourra être ni remboursé ni converti, les Délégués ne voient pas d'objection à l'adoption d'une période supérieure à dix ans; cette prolongation paraît même rationnel si le taux nominal de l'emprunt est réduit à $2\frac{1}{2}$.

5. Enfin, les Délégués reconnaissent les avantages qui résulteraient pour l'émission de l'emprunt du concours de la Banque d'Angleterre.

6. En ce qui concerne l'adjudication de l'emprunt, les Délégués sont d'avis qu'il y aura lieu de rechercher les modalités permettant à accepter les propositions les plus avantageuses sans distinction d'origine. En même temps, pour assurer autant que possible la participation des nationaux de chacune des Puissances Garantes à l'opération, il conviendrait d'insérer dans la cahier des chargés de l'emprunt une clause en vertu de laquelle toute maison ou institution de banque qui soumissionnerait la totalité de l'emprunt, au prix le plus élevé, serait tenu d'admettre au partage de la souscription les capitalistes des deux autres pays garants aux conditions fixées par sa soumission, moyennant une allocation prise sur les frais de l'emprunt, et dont la quotité est à déterminer.

La souscription sera ouverte simultanément sur les trois places : de Paris, Londres, et Saint-Pétersbourg.

Inclosure 2 in No. 156.

Draft of Collective Note.

EN vue de hâter l'évacuation de la Thessalie et de permettre ainsi la mise en vigueur aussi prompte que possible des arrangements financiers préparés par les Représentants des Puissances réunis à Athènes, la France, l'Angleterre, et la Russie ont décidé d'accorder le concours de leur garantie collective et solidaire à la Grèce pour la conclusion de l'emprunt qu'elle doit contracter en vue—

1. De payer à la Turquie les indemnités qui lui sont dues en vertu des Articles II et VIII du Traité de Paix signé à Constantinople le 22 Novembre (4 Décembre, 1897).

2. De solder le déficit de l'Exercice 1897.

A cet effet, elles se sont mises d'accord sur un projet de Convention à conclure avec le Gouvernement Grec et sur un projet de Loi qui serait soumis à la ratification du Parlement Hellénique.

D'après ce projet de Loi, le détail des conditions de l'emprunt serait réglé par un Décret Royal, rendu au Conseil des Ministres, après avoir reçu, conformément aux Articles 7 et 10 du projet de Loi sur le Contrôle, l'approbation des Six Puissances Médiatrices.

Les Gouvernements de France, de la Grande-Bretagne, et de Russie ont l'honneur de donner communication au Gouvernement du projet de Convention et du projet de Loi qu'ils ont arrêté de concert.

Inclosure 3 in No. 156.

Proposals for addition to the Règlement.

Article 13.—2e *Paragraphe* (*Nouveau*).

LES sommes qui leur ont été remises pour faire face au service des dites obligations seront employées, jusqu'à épuisement, à améliorer l'intérêt des échéances à venir, sans toutefois que cette amélioration puisse porter l'intérêt annuel à plus de 40 pour cent du taux originel.

Article 15.—*Paragraphe Additionnel.*

Les porteurs de l'Emprunt de Consolidation 1893 (Funding Loan) recevront, en même temps que les obligations définitives visées par l'Article 13, des certificats ou tickets, contre la remise desquels ils pourront encaisser 5 pour cent des intérêts impayés depuis 1894 dans les mêmes conditions que les porteurs des autres emprunts.

Inclosure 4 in No. 156.

Alternative draft Law ("*Emprunt Non-Garanti*").

ARTICLE 1er. Le Ministre des Finances est autorisé à créer des obligations de fr., amortissables en années, et portant un intérêt maximum de pour cent, qui seront émises conformément aux dispositions de la Loi sur le Contrôle.

Le capital réalisé par la négociation de ces obligations ne pourra excéder la somme totale effective de 50,000,000 fr.

Les frais d'émission, de négociation, et de remise, seront ajoutés au capital des emprunts.

Art. 2. Le produit des émissions prévues par l'Article précédent sera tenu intégralement à la disposition de la Commission Internationale de Contrôle, qui l'emploiera de concert avec le Gouvernement Hellénique :—

(*a.*) A la conversion de la dette flottante en or, dans les conditions qui seront arrêtées par un Décret Royal, qui sera rendu en Conseil des Ministres, après approbation de la Commission Internationale.

(*b.*) A subvenir aux paiements à faire en 1898 aux porteurs de la dette actuelle en or, conformément aux Articles 1, 14, et 15 du Règlement annexée à la Loi sur le Contrôle.

(*c.*) A solder les déficits des années 1898 et suivantes.

Art. 3. Les sommes nécessaires pour effectuer aux porteurs de la dette actuelle les paiements visés ci-dessus, seront realisées à partir du 1er Juillet, 1898.

Art. 4. Les obligations destinées tant à pourvoir à ces paiements qu'à couvrir les déficits des années 1898 et suivantes seront émises en vertu d'autorisations législatives préalablement soumises à l'approbation de la Commission Internationale.

Art. 5. Le service des emprunts qui font l'objet de la présente Loi aura lieu par l'intermédiaire de la Commission Internationale et sera assuré au moyen d'attributions proportionnelles sur les remises opérées par la dite Commission, conformément aux Articles 24 et 25 de la Loi sur le Contrôle et, en cas d'insuffisance de ces remises, au moyen des versements effectués par le Gouvernement conformément à l'Article 13 de la même Loi.

L'amortissement aura lieu par voie de rachat et, si les titres ont dépassé le pair, par voie de tirage.

Lors de la présentation à l'encaissement les titres sortis aux tirages devront être accompagnés de tous les coupons dont l'échéance sera postérieure à la date fixée pour le remboursement. La valeur des coupons manquante sera déduite du capital à rembourser.

Art. 6. Les obligations émises en vertu de la présente Loi ne pourront être frappés d'aucun impôt au profit du Gouvernement Hellénique.

Un Décret Royal rendu en Conseil des Ministres [après ?] approbation de la Commission Internationale, déterminera les taux et les conditions d'émission des obligations à créer en vertu de l'Article 1er.

No. 157.

Treasury to Foreign Office.—(*Received February* 26.)

Treasury Chambers, February 26, 1898.

Sir,

THE Lords Commissioners of Her Majesty's Treasury have had before them your letter of the 23rd instant, inclosing, besides other papers relative to Greek finance, a "Projet de Convention" drawn up by the Delegates of France, Russia, and this country, respecting the guaranteed loan proposed to enable the Greek Government to pay the war indemnities due to Turkey and to liquidate the deficit on the year 1897.

I am directed to acquaint you, for the information of the Marquess of Salisbury, that, subject to the following observations, their Lordships approve of the "Projet de Convention":—

1. Should it appear advisable to the guaranteeing Powers to postpone for a period of not more than five years the operation of the sinking fund of the loan, my Lords would be ready at once to accept such modifications in the Convention as might be necessary to carry this proposal into effect. I am to point out that, if the payments from Greece in respect of the loan were confined to interest only for the next five years, not only would substantial help be given to that country during a critical period, but also the security for the guaranteed loan would be improved by the consequent reduction in the amount of the further economic loan.

Their Lordships desire me, however, to state that, if this proposal should prove likely to cause any delay or difficulty in the negotiations, it should be at once withdrawn.

2. With regard to Article 5, my Lords would prefer that the specific proposals respecting amortization contained in the last two sentences should be omitted, and replaced by words to the following effect:—

"The amortization will be effected in such manner as may be agreed upon by the guaranteeing Powers."

3. My Lords suggest that a period of twenty years should be substituted for that of ten years named in the first sentence of Article 11, and they propose to insert at the beginning of the second sentence some such words as "At any time after the expiry of such period."

I am, &c.

(Signed) E. W. HAMILTON.

No. 158.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir P. Currie.

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1898, 3·30 P.M.

I HAVE received your Excellency's telegram No. 57 of this day's date respecting the proceedings of the Turkish Commission appointed to inquire into the alleged torture of Bulgarians in Macedonia.

As questions are being asked on this subject in the House of Commons, it will be important to have reports of the proceedings from Mr. Eliot.

Can you obtain permission for him to attend the sittings ?

No. 159.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 56 B. Confidential.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 26, 1898.

THE Russian Ambassador called to-day and read, confidentially, a telegram which had been sent by his Government to their Ambassador at Rome in reply to observations made by the Marquis Visconti Venosta on the two recent suggestions of the German Government for the pacification of Crete.

In this telegram the Russian Government state that they have received no formal proposal from Germany relative to the affairs of Crete.

The idea of a Commissioner is not a new one, and they consider that there would be no more chance of finding such an officer than there had been of selecting a Provisional Governor of the island.

As to the practical value of the plan of assigning to two Powers the task of the administrative organization of Crete, they are equally in doubt. Such a combination would involve many inconveniences, and would not meet the requirements of the situation. It would on the whole appear more prudent, if this idea were adopted, to allow a mandate to be given to the three great Protecting Powers, whose action would indisputably rest upon an historical basis, and could be exercised without detriment to the solidarity of the Six Powers, who have by common agreement sanctioned the bases of the autonomous régime introduced in Crete.

The Emperor had, however, desired that the Russian Government should abstain from making any fresh proposal, and, after frankly expressing their views on the present phase of the Cretan question, they have nothing to add.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 160.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(Received February 27.)

(No. 24.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 26, 1898, 5 P.M.

I WAS asked yesterday by the French Minister for Foreign Affairs for information as to your Lordship's views respecting the Turkish threat not to evacuate Thessaly contained in the recent Turkish Circular.

The Circular in question was delivered to the French Government by the Turkish Ambassador in Paris on the 24th instant. There is nothing on this subject in the bag which I received from the Queen's messenger this morning.

No. 157*.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 26, 1·25 P.M.)

(No. 57.)
(Telegraphic.) *En clair.* *Pera, February* 26, 1898.

FOLLOWING from Mr. Eliot, Cumanovo, yesterday :—

"Commission inform me that of 113 prisoners here, they have condemned 3 on political charges, and released 110; 3 of these latter, however, are detained on criminal charges."

No. 161.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 58.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Constantinople, February* 27, 1898, 11·40 A.M.

I UNDERSTAND that the work of the Commission will be finished at Ishtib in the course of a few days. Mr. Eliot left for that place yesterday. I fear it would now be of no use to request permission for his attendance at the few sittings that remain, as suggested in your Lordship's telegram No. 24 of yesterday; he keeps himself well informed, however, of the progress of affairs.

I have already, in my despatch No. 111 of the 24th instant, forwarded to your Lordship copies of all the letters which I have received from Mr. Eliot up to the 19th instant. These should reach London to-morrow.

No. 162.

Sir E. Egerton to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 27.)

(No. 26.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Athens, February* 27, 1898.

YOUR Lordship's telegram No. 11.

Approval of the work of the financial experts has also been notified by the French Government.

It is hoped that they may declare their willingness to join in the guarantee of the loans before Thursday, when the Chamber should meet.

I will then at once confer with my Russian and French colleagues as to sending similar communications to the Greek Government.

I can, I presume, agree *ad referendum* in case time presses.

No. 163.

*The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Monson.**

(No. 28.)
(Telegraphic.) P. *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1898, 6·30 P.M.

THE Turkish Ambassador communicated to me on the 24th instant the [a] Circular from his Government respecting the affairs of Crete [concerning which your Excellency inquired in your telegram No. 24 of yesterday†].

The upshot of the document, which is long and wordy, is that the Porte urges upon the Powers the importance of settling the Cretan question in accordance with the proposals which it previously made on the subject, and insists that the Turkish troops should remain in Thessaly until this is done.

The opinion of the Russian Government, as expressed in a telegram which has been communicated to me by M. de Staal, is that the Powers cannot admit that the two questions should be made dependent upon each other. They state that it has been stipulated that the evacuation of Thessaly shall take place on certain conditions, and that, when those conditions have been fulfilled, the evacuation must be carried out.

In that view Her Majesty's Government entirely agree.

No. 164.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir N. O'Conor.

(No. 56 A.)
Sir, *Foreign Office, February* 27, 1898.

THE Russian Ambassador called yesterday and read the substance of a telegram he had received from Count Lamsdorff containing the observations of the Russian Government on the last Turkish Circular respecting Crete.

* Also to Sir N. O'Conor (No. 57), *mutatis mutandis*. † Omitted in telegram to Sir N. O'Conor.

The Russian Government think that the claims of the Porte that a settlement of the Cretan question shall be arrived at before the evacuation of Thessaly, calls for the serious attention of the Powers. The Cretan question arose before the war between Greece and Turkey broke out, and the settlement of that question which the Powers have taken in hand cannot, in the opinion of the Russian Government, be made dependent on the decision of the Turkish Government, or on other and separate arrangements.

The evacuation of Thessaly is to take place on the fulfilment of certain conditions laid down in the Preliminaries of Peace, and connected with the payment of the War Indemnity, and it must be executed in conformity with those conditions.

The Russian Government cannot admit the idea that the Powers should tolerate the violation by Turkey of the stipulations of a Convention sanctioned by their unanimous consent.

The Russian Government inquired whether Her Majesty's Government shared this view, and a reply in the affirmative has been sent to M. de Staal this day.

I am, &c.
(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 165.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 101.)
My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 20, 1898.

I HAVE the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a despatch which the French Embassy have received from their Consul at Canea and communicated to me, respecting the burning by Bashi-Bazouks and Mussulman gendarmes of olive trees belonging to Christians, with the connivance of Husni Pasha.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 165.

M. Blanc to M. Cambon.

Consulat de France, La Canée,
le 7 Février, 1898.

M. l'Ambassadeur,

IL vient de se passer à Rethymo un incident assez sérieux.

Depuis un certain temps les autorités Ottomanes ne cessaient de se plaindre des insurgés Chrétiens, qui continuaient dans les environs de Rethymo à incendier les propriétés d'oliviers appartenant aux Musulmans. Le Gouverneur-Général s'était adressé anx Amiraux et aux Consuls pour leur dénoncer cette conduite des insurgés.

De leur côté les Chefs Chrétiens invités à mettre un terme à ces excès répondaient par une protestation énergique et affirmaient que non seulement les Chrétiens avaient cessé de détruire les propriétés des Musulmans, mais encore que c'étaient des Bachi-Bouzouks Musulmans qui passaient chaque jour le cordon pour aller incendier les propriétés Chrétiennes.

Les autorités militaires Russes déclaraient qu'elles avaient des raisons de croire à la véracité des déclarations des Chefs Chrétiens. La vérité était cependant difficile à établir en présence d'affirmations aussi catégoriques de part et d'autre.

Pourtant il y a quelques jours un nouvel incendie assez important se déclarait à une certaine distance de Rethymo. Les Musulmans et le Gouverneur Husni Pacha avisèrent aussitôt le Colonel Russe et l'invitèrent de venir voir du haut des remparts l'incendie qui ravageait les propriétés Musulmanes.

Le Colonel Russe voulut mettre l'affaire au clair. Il prévint Husni Pacha qu'il allait sortir avec ses troupes pour se rendre sur le lieu de l'incendie et le pria de lui donner un officier Turc pour l'accompagner.

Husni Pacha cherchait aussitôt mille prétextes pour éviter de donner l'officier

qu'on lui demandait, puis il essaya de gagner du temps et de retarder le départ du Colonel Russe.

Celui-ci de plus en plus méfiant pressa au contraire son départ ; arrivé sur le lieu de l'incendie il le fit cerner de tous côtés par des soldats Russes. Puis il fit avancer d'autres soldats qui mirent la main sur une bande de Bachi-Bouzouks et de gendarmes Musulmans qui coupaient les oliviers et avaient construit de grands fours pour y faire du charbon. C'était la fumée de ces fours où brûlaient constamment les oliviers des Chrétiens qu'on apercevait depuis quelque temps de Rethymo.

Dans les bois avoisinants, les arbres appartenant aux Musulmans étaient marqués d'un ruban rouge pour être épargnés par la cognée de ces pillards.

Mais le plus révoltant est que l'on trouva parmi eux un officier Turc qui avait été envoyé par le Pacha de Rethymo pour avertir les incendiaires et les engager à déguerpir au plus vite. Il était arrivé trop tard, grâce à la diligence déployée par le Colonel Russe, qui comprit alors la raison pour laquelle Husni Pacha cherchait à le retenir le plus longtemps possible à Rethymo.

Veuillez, &c.
(Signé) PAUL BLANC.

No. 166.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 105.)

Constantinople, February 21, 1898.

My Lord,

I HAVE the honour to transmit to your Lordship herewith the actual text of the communication made by the Bulgarian Agent both to the Grand Vizier and to the Sultan's First Secretary complaining of the ill-treatment of Bulgarians in Northern Macedonia.

The substance of this document, which was communicated to the press by Reuter's Agency, has already reached your Lord in précis, inclosed in my despatch No. 68, Confidential, of the 3rd instant.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 166.

M. Markoff to Halil Rifaat Pasha.

Le 19 *Janvier* (v. s.), 1898.

Altesse,

J'AI eu déjà l'occasion d'attirer l'attention du Gouvernement Impérial sur la vexation et la violence que l'ont fait éprouver à la population Bulgare dans le Vilayet de Kossovo à la suite de l'affaire de Vinitza. Le Gouvernement Princier se plaisait à espérer que la Sublime Porte se serait empressé de prendre les mesures urgentes et énergiques que comportait le cas ; mais des renseignements qui lui sont parvenus il résulte que la situation de la population Bulgare dans le dit vilayet est des plus tristes et digne d'intérêt.

Le Gouvernement Princier reconnaît au Gouvernement Impérial le droit de poursuivre et de punir les coupables, mais les les moyens employés par les autorités Impériales ne sont autres qu'une exécution militaire, à laquelle est soumise sans pitié presque toute la population de nationalité Bulgare, et sans distinction de coupables et innocents. En effet, les villages sont cernés un à un par l'armée, les arrestations se font en masse, et un grand nombre des détenus est soumis à des tortures inouïes. La terreur est générale dans tont le vilayet, un sauve-qui-peut général en est résulté, et déjà des centaines de personnes se sont réfugiées dans la Principauté pour échapper aux violences et aux tortures.

D'après les renseignements que possède le Gouvernement Princier, le nombre

des détenus dans le Vilayet de Kossovo monte environ à 592, dont trente maîtres d'école et plusieurs prêtres, réparties comme suit:—

Du Caza de	Kochana	172 personnes.
„	Peshtchevo	51 „
„	Ishtip	159 „
„	Karatova	64 „
„	Kumanovo	26 „
„	Palanka	120 „
	En tout	592 „

ont été cruellement torturés: presque tous les habitants des villages de Vinitza, Lernovtsi, ainsi que plusieurs villages de Leski et de Yakinovo.

Le maître d'école du village de Ztétovo (Caza Karatovo), Vodinitcharoff, et le nommé Kouzman.

Arso Domazet et Doné Milochoff, du village de Schlegovo (même caza).

Yossif Daskaloff, maître d'école à Karatova, à qui on a introduit dans la bouche et dans l'anus des fers chauffés. A la suite de ces tortures il a décidé de se suicider, et ayant été conduit à l'école sous prétexte de découvrir des armes, il s'y est jeté de l'étage supérieur, et s'est fracturé les jambes.

De la ville de Kochana :—

Mikaïl Kanjoulaff, à qui l'on a fracassé les jambes et introduit aux ongles des morceaux de bois pointus.

Votzo Zakharieff a eu les pieds posés sur un poêle chauffé.

Ghigo Gaidarjieff a été pendu par les pieds, la tête pendante, et tenu dans cette position durant quinze heures.

Santo Belitcheff a eu les pieds suspendus au-dessus du feu; on lui a de plus introduit aux ongles des morceaux de bois pointus.

Yordan Baba Hadjiykin a eu l'un des bras cassé, et Vassil Siméonoff battu à mort.

Le nommé Bashko, du village Tchepernik (Caza de Kochana), et Kotzo Kouyoumdji, de la ville de Kotchana, battus cruellement dans la prison d'Uscub.

Petr Mouftiski d'Ishtib a été conduit de Kotchana à Vinitza attaché à la queue d'un cheval, et dans ce dernier village battu à mort.

Les prêtres des villages de Blatetz et Vinitsa, Pop Spiro et Pop Ilia.

Le nommé Atanas, du village Oblechova (Caza de Kochana), Gheesghi Domazet et Ghitcho Tchechinovtsali, de Kochana, ont été battus à mort, et n'ont pas été conduits à Uscub de peur qu'ils n'expirent en chemin.

Le maître d'école du village Dragobrachna, Saltir Tremloff, à qui l'on a introduit aux ongles des morceaux de bois pointus.

Les maîtres d'école des villages Sokolartsi et Thoghertsi (Caza d'Ishtip), Dimitr Panoff et Alexandre Iconomoff.

Le maître d'école du village de Kavadartsi, Grigor Anastasoff, que l'on a forcé de rester vingt-quatre heures sur un pied.

Denko Steschoff (hôtelier) et son fils, Mile de Koumanova, ont été battus à mort dans la prison de cette ville, et élargis après pour qu'ils n'y expirent pas.

Les maîtres d'école des villages Jegueni, Malino, et Gratishté, et Golomekoff Yordan Kraleff et Mikaïl Stoïmanoff, ainsi que le Notable Doné, du dernier village, battus et torturés dans la prison de Koumanova.

Le prêtre du village Molino et quatre villageois qui ont été battus à mort et laissés au village.

Le prêtre Nicolas, du village Zernovitsi, a été le plus cruellement torturé; il a été pendu par les pieds, la tête pendante durant trois heures, et par les bras pendant quatorze heures. On lui a encore serré la tête avec une corde mouillée, on l'a mis dans l'eau froide, et on lui a introduit dans l'anus du fer chauffé.

Tous les détenus à Koumanova ont été battus si cruellement que leurs chairs volaient en lambeaux; la plupart sont estropiés, et en l'absence d'un médecin ces malheureux détenus sont soigné par un simple officier de Santé.

Les femmes mêmes n'ont pas été épargnées; il y en a qui ont été violées; tel est le cas de la fille E. Karmova, d'Ishtip, âgée de 10 ans.

Sont morts à la suite des tortures auxquelles ils ont été soumis: Anto Zakarieff, du village Vinitza; Arso Barzok, du village Ortzeri (Caza de Kochana), trois villaegois de Maléchevo (Caza de Perchtchevo), dans la prison de Kochano, et deux villageois de Polaki (Caza de Kochana).

Le prêtre Pop Dimitr Iconomoff, de Palanka, a été tué par la garde-frontière Ottomane au moment où il voulait se sauver en Bulgarie.

La liste ci-dessus, quoique incomplète, attendu qu'il y a d'autres détenus et torturés dont les noms n'ont pu être indiqués, est pourtant suffisante pour édifier votre Altesse sur la triste situation dans laquelle se trouve la population Bulgare dans le Vilayet de Kossovo.

A la suite de ces faits la surexcitation des esprits en Bulgarie est à son comble, et le Gouvernement Princier ne peut pas évidemment rester impassible devant cet état de choses, qui met en danger la tranquillité dans la Principauté, et qui pourrait conduire à des conséquences dont on ne pourrait prévoir l'importance. C'est pourquoi le Gouvernement Princier, animé du désir de maintenir la paix et les bons rapports existant entre la Sublime Porte et lui, me charge d'attirer la sérieuse attention de votre Altesse sur ce qui précède, et la prier instamment encore une fois de vouloir bien prendre d'urgence des mesures efficaces pour conjurer le danger dans l'intérieur des deux pays.

Le Gouvernement Princier estime que le seul moyen propre à calmer les esprits et rassurer la population est de faire cesser immédiatement les violences et les tortures, d'ordonner l'élargissement des innocents, le transfert des coupables dans la prison d'Uscub et leur livraison à la justice aussitôt que possible, et destituer les Caïmacans et les fonctionnaires qui se sont distingués par leurs atrocités, entre autres les Caïmacans d'Ishtip, de Koumanova, de Karatova, et le Chef de Police de Koumanova. Le Caïmacan et le Cadi de Palanka ont même exigé une somme de £ T. 1,000,000, contre laquelle ils s'engageaient à mettre en liberté les détenus de cette ville.

Le Gouvernement Princier se plaît à espérer que la Sublime Porte, qui a donné tant de preuves de son désir de conserver la paix, s'inspirant des considérations invoquées ci-dessus, et de la gravité de la situation, voudra bien prendre en sérieuse considération la demande au Gouvernement Princier.

Veuillez, &c.
L'Agent Diplomatique,
(Signé) DR. MARKOFF.

No. 167.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 108. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 23, 1898.

WITH reference to my despatch No. 98, Confidential, of the 15th instant, I have the honour to forward to your Lordship herewith copy of a Memorandum recording a conversation with the Minister for Foreign Affairs respecting the passage of Russian ships-of-war through the Dardanelles.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure in No. 167.

Memorandum by Mr. Block.

(No. 48. Confidential.)

I HAVE spoken privately to the Foreign Minister on the subject of the paragraph in the "Ikdam" regarding passage of Russian men-of-war through the Straits.

His Excellency said he had not seen the paragraph in question, nor had he any knowledge of the Russian Ambassador having made any representations to the Porte: that the Russian Government wanted free passage for their ships was of course undeniable, but such a concession was absolutely opposed to the Treaties and to the interests of the Turkish Empire. His Excellency added that the Russian volunteer fleet was now passing guns, ammunition, and soldiers through to Vladivostock, although in the arrangement of 1891 (*vide* Porte's Circular to Powers of the 19th September, 1891) only "soldats" and "forçats" are mentioned, and the Russian Government always speaks of "recruits" and not "soldiers" in the applications made to the Porte for the passage of the ship, and

they, the "recruits," are not supposed to be armed, although the Porte knows very well that they are armed. Nothing is said of "arms and ammunition" in the arrangement above mentioned, but the Minister says the Porte has knowledge of considerable quantities of arms and guns being on board, and his Excellency had heard that some of the guns were seen on their mountings on a recent occasion.

With reference to your Excellency's despatch of the 15th February, I beg to point out that no *official* inquiries or representations have as yet been made to the Porte.

I have however inquired privately from Izzet Bey, the Second Secretary at the Palace, and he informs me confidentially that during the last two years the Russian Embassy has frequently hinted at the Palace that a "relaxation of the ancient rule of the Ottoman Empire" with respect to the passage of ships-of-war through the Straits in favour of Russia was most desirable, and last year the Sultan consulted him, Izzet Bey, about it, but Izzet Bey opposed it. Izzet Bey said he had no doubt whatsoever that when an occasion presented itself the Russians would make an endeavour to obtain such a concession from the Sultan.

I beg to refer to Sir W. White's No. 365 of the 28th August, 1891, on this subject.

With regard to passage of arms and ammunition through the Straits, this question is and should be treated apart from the volunteer fleet arrangement. The regulations on the subject are contained in the Sublime Porte's Circular of the 17th April, 1888, and note of the 5th November, 1894.

(Signed) ADAM BLOCK.

Constantinople, February 21, 1898.

No. 168.

Sir P. Currie to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 111. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Constantinople, February* 24, 1898.

I HAVE already had the honour to inform your Lordship, by telegraph, of the arrival of the Turkish Commission of Inquiry at Uscub, and of the general result of its proceedings up to the present time, as reported to me by Mr. Eliot. A number of prisoners have no doubt been released at Uscub, and the Commission is about to continue its investigations at Kumanova and Ishtip, but it does not seem that any light is likely to be thrown upon the charges of torture, and it would be contrary to all experience if the officials guilty of these enormities were made to suffer.

The Amery incident and the methods of inquiry pursued by the Commission are well described in the letters from Mr. Eliot, of which I inclose copies.

Mr. Eliot telegraphs that he proposes to accompany the Commission on its further progress if the authorities raise no objections.

Since writing the above, I have received the communication from the Porte, of which I likewise inclose a copy, stating that 134 prisoners out of 136 have been released at Uscub, and that the charges of torture have entirely broken down under examination.

I have, &c.
(For the Ambassador),
(Signed) M. DE BUNSEN.

Inclosure 1 in No. 168.

Mr. Eliot to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

My dear Sir Philip, *Uskub, February* 15, 1898.

AMERY left yesterday for Kumanova, Palanka, and Kustendil with every mark of respect. He should reach Sophia Thursday or Friday, if nothing untoward happens, which I always expect in Turkey. I gather from your telegram that you do not think that I have claimed too little on his behalf; I hope also that you do not think I have done too much. Personally, I cannot for the life of me see why he should not, legally speaking, be imprisoned for assaulting the police, but it is no doubt an excellent thing that Turks should see that an Englishman can use his fists

(or umbrella) against their officials with impunity, when he is morally if not legally in the right. It is perhaps undesirable that Amery should return here in the immediate future, but it is equally undesirable that he should be condemned by default, which would render it legally impossible for him to return. The Vali has assured both me and him that he shall not be so condemned, and that the suit against him is absolutely annulled, but I am not sure that in such a case verbal assurances are enough. As, however, you say in your telegram of yesterday that the Sublime Porte accept this condition, I do not propose to try to obtain anything in writing from the Vali, but it might be worth while for your Excellency to consider whether the assurances given at Constantinople are sufficient.

I have sent you a telegram about the general situation here. On the one hand, there is no doubt that the Turks have some cause for complaint against the Bulgarians. The Bulgarian Agent admits that 1,600 guns and between 60 and 80 bombs have been discovered. The latter were collected in depôts, the chief of which were at Leski (Sandjak of Kochana), Gradishte (Sandjak of Kumanova), and Ishtip. It is probable that these arms were introduced into the country some time ago and not last autumn, at any rate the bombs which I have seen here look old and rusty. I think it very likely (though it is a mere guess on my part) that they were brought here in the summer of 1895. In August that year I believe the Bulgarian Government contemplated, and then thought better, of proclaiming their independence, but a large number of expeditions crossed into Macedonia, and it was proved that these, particularly that which burnt the Turkish village of Dospat, carried surprisingly large quantities of dynamite, and it is easy to suppose that they left a good deal behind them.

This winter the Turks, having discovered these arms and having therefore a good case against the Bulgarians, at once proceeded to put themselves in the wrong. I will cite the case which has come under my own notice, but which I believe to be typical. A Yuzbashi and zaptiehs went from Kumanova to a village called Kukushinge. Their drastic measures which I am about to relate did not bring to light a single gun or bomb, and it would appear that they had no particular reason to suspect that any would be found. The Bulgarian Agent here has shown me the schoolmaster (Nikoloff) of the place, who has been about a month in prison here and has now been released as an admittedly innocent man. His feet are still swollen and ulcerated, and there are large scars on his legs and posteriors, which seem to be undoubtedly due to burns with a hot iron. He has become deaf, and seemed entirely broken in health and rather dazed. He said the Yuzbashi and zaptiehs, on arriving at Kukushinge, sent for the priest Anani and himself, and told them to give up their arms. They said there were none in the village. On this they were bound and beaten on the soles of their feet till their legs were swollen. As they could not produce any guns, the zaptiehs stripped them and then, by the orders of the Yuzbashi,* who was seated in a corner and directed operations, heated their ramrods. Nikoloff was burnt externally only; the priest internally as well. The priest was too ill to be moved, but Nikoloff was transferred to Uscub and imprisoned in a small room, in which there were never less than fifteen and often twenty-five prisoners.

This particular case is, I believe, new; neither Amery nor the Austrian Consul have seen Nikoloff. It is clear that there have been many such cases; how many it is hard to say, but I see no reason to doubt the general accuracy of the figures given by Marcoff. They are derived from a report made by Rizoff, the Bulgarian here, who is by himself not very trustworthy. He showed an exaggerated report to the Austrian and Russian Consuls here, but they told him that his policy was stupid, and that he had better give nothing but the simple facts. The revised list, which practically represents the Consular view of the case as well as Rizoff's own, is that which Marcoff now has. These remarks, as well as any others about the Consuls, had better be treated as strictly confidential, and not be repeated to their Embassies.

At present I do not think there is any probability of a Bulgarian rising, unless it is encouraged from the Principality; and I suppose that the Bulgarian Government in their turn require external encouragement. The authorities can easily terrorize the villagers with the Albanians, who are always ready for a raid, and the hostility between the Bulgarians and Servians is very prejudicial to the former. The conduct of the Servians is disgraceful. The Servian Consul openly denied that

* The Vali has arrested this Yuzbashi, but the Austrian Consul says only since my arrival.

any outrages have occurred, and that the Bulgarians are traitors. Servian doctors are got to examine tortured Bulgarians, and declare [deny ?] that there is any trace of injury on their persons. Servian spies trump up charges and bring false evidence against Bulgarians. This is all the worse, because there is no real distinction between Servians and Bulgarians. A Slav village declares itself Servian, receives Servian money, which seems much more plentiful here than at Belgrade, and is at once ready to take part against its neighbour, who had previously been supposed to have the same blood, creed, and interests. Another reason against any rising is that a large proportion of the able-bodied men are in prison. I saw yesterday two women, a mother and a daughter, who had come from Venitza to demand protection, because there were no men to look after them. They had first had a Petition written to the Vali, but the Kaïmakam called the village letter writer before him and insisted on his writing something different and irrelevant. Hence, when the women, who naturally cannot read Turkish, presented the Petition, it did not have much result—not that it was likely to have any if it expressed their complaints. They had both been violated by a non-commissioned officer and a private, who took turn and turn about. Their arms showed severe bruises where they had been bound with ropes. Though I do not think the Bulgarians can rise, it seems to me very probable that, if nothing is done, "events," as they are called, may take place, on account of the fanatical feeling of the Mussulmans, which is being carefully nursed by the authorities. At this time it is usual for people called Ramazan Hojas to make tours in the provinces and create what is, I believe, called a "revival" in other religions by preaching a class of sermon superior to the discourse of the local Mollahs. A number of very eloquent divines have been brought here, chiefly by the Vali, who is a great bigot, and nightly inflame the population with their discourses. One pleasant doctrine which they preach is that Moslems should buy of one another, but not give money to Christians. As a corollary it follows that if you cannot buy what you want from a Moslem, you had better take it from a Christian. This principle appears to have been extensively acted on in the bazars in the last few days. A soldier pretends to buy from a Christian, and walks off with what he wants. When the Christian asks for payment, half-a-dozen Turks and Albanians swear that they have just seen him receive his money.

I have also excellent evidence that the authorities have a Bulgarian printing press where they print revolutionary Proclamations, which are then distributed so as to incriminate Bulgarians and excite Mussulman fanaticism. In this the Servians give ready assistance.

I had telegraphed to your Excellency this morning explaining my idea of a tour with the Austrian Consul, if possible, as the Russian is not likely to come. Since sending it, however, everything has been changed by the arrival of Enver Pasha, ex-Mutessarif of Volo, whom I knew in those parts. He says he is a member of a Military Tribunal, the President of which is Saad Eddin Pasha (who went, or was to go, to Crete). The arrival of this Commission was a surprise to the Vali, who appears to have known nothing about it and not to be pleased. It is not clear to me whether its main object is to prevent scandal and a European inquiry, or to discover and suppress a Revolutionary Committee. Probably both. At any rate, Enver Pasha has asked me to communicate with the Commissioner during its investigations, though, as he is not President, I am not sure how far this invitation can be regarded as official. At any rate, I await your Excellency's instructions here. It is plain that the authorities are most anxious to produce a good impression on the Embassy through me, and will listen to any representations you instruct me to make.

I am trying at present to obtain the release of some Bulgarians, of which more in my next letter.

Yours, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

N.B.—The Russian Consul, whether by instructions or not, I cannot tell, is very anti-English. He has just told the Austrian Consul and Enver Pasha that he knows that Amery was a paid Bulgarian Agent, and that he ought to have been put in prison.

C. N. E. E.

Inclosure 2 in No. 168.

Mr. Eliot to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

My dear Sir Philip, *Uscub, February* 16, 1898.

I HAVE just received a telegram from Amery saying he has arrived safely at Kustendil, in Bulgaria, so I hope we have finished with that job—a good job too. I have also received your telegram saying you have applied to Lord Salisbury, and I await your instructions.

The Commission has now arrived in full force and with such military pomp as Uscub can display. As far as I know, the only important members are Saad Eddin and Enver. The function of the latter is no doubt to make a good impression on the Consuls and on Europe generally. He is a Pole by origin and quite European in his habits. He married a daughter of the German Pasha (I think Mehemed Ali was his name), who was a Turkish Plenipotentiary at the Congress of Berlin and was subsequently killed at Jakovo. He is full of promises and expressions of disgust at the "bêtises" and "saletés" which have been committed. It is generally thought that he has little influence and is not in direct correspondence with the Palace. As for Saad-ed-Din Pasha, you have records at the Embassy of a somewhat similar Commission in Anatolia (probably 1896) over which he presided. If I recollect rightly, the essential part of his "investigation" was to summon the chief Armenians in every town and explain that they were responsible for the massacres and that, if they did not take care, more would occur. He will doubtless correspond directly with the Palace. He has informed the Consuls and me, through Enver, that he is too busy to return visits, and would therefore prefer that no one should call on him for the present. His departure from Constantinople appears to have coincided with the publication in the press of the capital of violent articles against Bulgaria, which have been reproduced and distributed here. We are told that the object of the Commission is to inquire into the arrest and torture of Bulgarians; but as this version would be distasteful to the local Mahommedans, they are led to believe that its mission is to suppress the Macedonian Committees and to take military precautions against Bulgaria. It is said that they will inspect the strategic positions near the frontier and make arrangements for the establishment of a large camp. It is hard to discover how far these professed apprehensions are serious, but there is apparently no doubt that the railway has been ordered to report how many men they could transport from Veles (meaning, I suppose, that the troops would be drawn from Monastir) in twenty days, and that the Vali has been instructed to make a separate and secret report in order to control the estimate of the railway. The Austrian and Russian Consuls here represent the Bulgarian and Servian factions and complicate matters by their jealousies, as each endeavours (and with some success) to induce the Vali not to listen to the representations of the other. The Russian has given me a long paper respecting the ill-treatment of Servians in the district of Ghilan, but I have not had time to read it yet. But though anti-Bulgarian in his sympathies, he does not attempt to deny the outrages which have taken place, whereas the Servian Consul told Enver Pasha, in the presence of foreigners, that horses laden with arms arrive daily from Bulgarian villages and that the latter richly deserved what they had got.

The Russian Consul speaks as if he thought it probable or desirable that he should be in some way attached to the Commission. The local authorities do not like my communicating with the Embassy even *en clair*, and from their attitude and the refusal of the Porte to allow me to cypher, I conclude that great opposition will be made to my taking part in any investigation.

Uscub does not offer many distractions, but the climate seems healthy and the weather and the view are magnificent.

Yours very sincerely,

(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 3 in No. 168.

Mr. Eliot to Sir P. Currie.

(Confidential.)

My dear Sir Philip, *Uscub, February* 19, 1898.

THE Mustantik, or Juge d'Instruction, yesterday summoned several Bulgarians, and accused them of having written to Amery, and invited him to come out here in order to prepare a rising and cause bloodshed. He also stated that Amery's expenses were paid by the Revolutionary Committee. The Bulgarians replied, "We have no such information," but as the Mustantik wrote down their answer in Turkish, which they cannot read, it is possible that it has been misrepresented. I have this information from both Turkish and Bulgarian sources. To my mind it makes it doubly desirable that you should have some written statement from the Porte that all charges against Amery are dropped, otherwise I am convinced that the moment I am gone, if not before, he will be condemned in default on some trumped-up charge, and forbidden to enter the Ottoman dominions, which might lead to trouble some day.

It is clear now, if, indeed, there was ever any doubt about it, that the object of the Commission is to exaggerate the importance of the Bulgarian revolutionary movement, and to minimize the outrages perpetrated by the soldiers and zaptiehs. Enver Pasha called on me last night, and said that he had come here full of indignation at the senseless cruelties of which he had heard, and anxious only to punish those who had committed them. But the evidence given before him that day was such that he felt that the conduct of the Bulgarians was sufficient to infuriate all Moslems. A young Bulgarian (who, however, preferred to remain anonymous) had explained to the Commission the working of the Macedonian Committee, and had confessed that he had helped to import bombs and fire-arms in order to assassinate the authorities. The Commission were powerfully impressed by this declaration, which had shaken their bias in favour of the suffering population. Otherwise, he said, they had been chiefly occupied with the documentary evidence. It is difficult for any one who has not had actual experience of Turkish dossiers to form an idea of the extraordinary farrago of improbable lies denoted by this phrase. A dossier in this part of the world is even more mendacious than in Armenia, for the Bulgarians can rarely write, and often do not understand, Turkish properly. Hence, the evidence they give is distorted by the interpreter, and the documents they are forced to sign have no value at all. I learn privately that the Commission has received instructions from Constantinople to the following effect: that since the statements of the Bulgarians are dictated by interested motives, and made only to attract the pity of Europe, and since it is known that this people are very mendacious and prone to exaggerate, it is superfluous to pay attention to such stories as rest on the evidence of Bulgarians, and only those cases merit investigation which respectable Europeans have seen with their own eyes. Enver Pasha's conduct entirely confirms this information. He begged the Consuls and myself to give him written statements of what we had seen and of nothing else, and I have no doubt that all the other cases will soon be found to melt away under documentary and other Turkish evidence.

As to the revolutionary plans of the Bulgarians, it must be remembered that the projects of the Committee, including probably the depôts of bombs, were known to few people, thirty or fifty at a large estimate, and there is not the least reason to think that the ordinary peasantry had any knowledge of them. Secondly, though the introduction and possession of fire-arms sounds a serious accusation, in this country every male Mussulman is armed, and most Albanians walk about with a perfect arsenal, whose proportions are limited only by their means. On the other hand, though the atrocities sound horrible, they are probably not so bad as the tortures inflicted by Bulgarians on their political opponents when they get them safe in prison, and all the proceedings of the Turks in this business are perhaps not much worse than the beatings and arrests which frequently accompany a contested election in that stormy Principality. But I am very distinctly of opinion that if any inquiry is to be made it should be made *now*, without delay. In a few days the Commission will have made arrangements to do away with all evidence, and I do not think that any investigation which I or others might make would result in anything except a reaffirmation of the cases which have come under our notice, and a general expression of scepticism respecting Turkish conclusions. In fact, unless you have some immediate instructions for me, I do not think I shall do much good by staying here.

I telegraphed to your Excellency last night suggesting that representations might be made at the Porte in favour of Manoff, Director of the Bulgarian girls' school here.

He is said to be an intelligent and educated man, and was doubtless imprisoned simply and solely on account of his relations with Amery. He was perhaps unnecessarily zealous with that young man, and urged him to meddle in political matters. The official accusation against him is somewhat variable—a sign no doubt that it is merely trumped up. The Vali showed me a Bulgarian Proclamation which he said was found in Manoff's great-coat pocket while the latter was visiting Amery. It is pretty certain that the Proclamation is a Turkish forgery, and was put in the great-coat by a Servian waiter in the pay of the police. Of course, it would be impossible to get any one to give evidence to this effect, but clearly it is grossly improbable that a man who knew the danger of his position would leave such a document in his great-coat, and the language of the paper (it is all about "secret and bloody plans" and suggestions for killing Turkish authorities) suggests a desire to alarm Turks more than practical advice to Bulgarians. The Vali was, I think, a little ashamed of the incident, and promised me and others that Manoff should be released,* but the Commission have ordered him to be kept in prison. I have reason to believe that they regard him as specially dangerous on account of the mass of information he possesses.

Believe me, &c.
(Signed) C. N. E. ELIOT.

Inclosure 4 in No. 168.

Note Verbale.

Traduction d'un Télégramme adressé à la Sublime Porte, en date du 9 Février, 1898 (N. S.), *par son Excellence Saad Eddin Pacha, Président de la Commission Spéciale se trouvant à Uskub.*

DES individus détenus au chef-lieu du vilayet, deux ont été condamnés et le reste, au nombre de 134, ont été relaxés après avoir prêté serment. Un seul a dû être envoyé à Ichtib pour que les vérifications le concernant pussent être faites sur les lieux. Il ne reste plus à Uskub aucun détenu pour cette affaire.

Les individus qui, d'après l'Agent de Bulgarie, auraient subi de mauvais traitements, à savoir que l'un aurait été traîné attaché à la queue d'un cheval, un autre assommé à force d'être roué de coups, qu'on aurait brisé intentionnellement les jambes à un troisième, enfoncé de gros copeaux sous les ongles d'un quatrième et arraché la moustache à un cinquième ont été, un à un, examinés par notre Commission, au sein de laquelle se trouvait un médecin ; mais nous n'avons pu découvrir sur eux aucune trace de pareilles tortures ; ces individus ont même manifesté tout leur étonnement de ce qu'on avait prétendu qu'ils avaient été l'objet de tels traitements. Quelques-uns d'entre eux qui viennent d'être remis en liberté ont été envoyés auprès de M. le Secrétaire de l'Ambassade d'Angleterre se trouvant ici, pour qu il pût les voir de ses propres yeux et les interroger lui-même.

Nous partirons demain pour Komanova.

Le 24 *Février*, 1898.

No. 169.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 61. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 24, 1898.

THE Emperor paid me a long visit on the afternoon of the 19th instant, and alluded to the conversation which he had had with me at the Opera House, and which I had the honour to report to your Lordship in my despatch No. 56 of the 17th instant. His Majesty said that he had called upon the Russian Ambassador, and had given him an account of our conversation, with which, however, Count Osten Sacken was already acquainted.

I replied that I had informed Count Osten Sacken of the substance of His Majesty's language to me, and I hoped that His Majesty had found that I had done so correctly.

* He has now been released. February 20, 1898.—C. N. E. E.

The Emperor said that the account which I had given to Count Osten Sacken must have been absolutely accurate, and His Majesty repeated that his proposal was that England and Russia should be given a perfectly free hand in the pacification of Crete. They should be allowed to do whatever they might think necessary, even if that should entail the erection of fortifications or the establishment of coaling stations.

On my asking whether the liberty of action to be granted to England and Russia, would enable them to appoint Prince George of Greece as Governor of Crete, His Majesty replied that it was impossible that the idea could be seriously entertained by the Emperor of Russia. About a year ago an arrangement was come to between Russia and Austria, which was recorded in a Protocol, a copy of which had been confidentially communicated to the German Government. In this Protocol it was distinctly stated that no member of a European reigning house should be chosen as Governor of Crete, and, at Count Mouravieff's suggestion the words "and above all a Greek Prince," had been inserted. However much, therefore, Count Mouravieff, for personal reasons, might urge the appointment of Prince George, His Majesty was convinced that the Emperor of Russia would not depart from the agreement which had then been made, a violation of which would furnish a just cause of resentment to the Emperor Francis Joseph.

I said that I was at a loss to understand the insistence with which the Russian Government had urged the appointment of Prince George, unless they really wished to carry it through, and even now, although they had declared their readiness to accept any other solution to which the Powers might agree, I understood that they felt convinced that no other solution would be found, and that eventually it would be found necessary for all the Powers to accept Prince George. I could understand that they might be willing to let the question drop for the present, as they feared that the Turks might seize it as a pretext for continuing the occupation of Thessaly, even after the payment of the war indemnity. But, however this might be, I should like, with His Majesty's permission, to give him my view of the present situation, and to ask him whether it was correct.

His Majesty had proposed to me that England and Russia should undertake the pacification of Crete. The Emperor nodded assent. Herr von Bülow had told me that the proposal was that the Great Powers should designate two of their number, without specifying which those two Powers should be. The Emperor replied that this was so, and that although he considered that England and Russia were the best, he would not object if some other two were selected. I continued that, at the same time, Herr von Bülow had told the Italian and French Ambassadors, and, as I subsequently ascertained, the Austrian Ambassador also, that, in his opinion, the two Powers should be France and Italy.

The Emperor replied that he considered that Italy was out of the question. Her finances were in so unsatisfactory a state that she could not bear the expense, necessarily a considerable one, which the pacification of Crete would entail.

I went on to say that this was not all, for I could tell His Majesty confidentially that I had seen by the telegrams which your Lordship had done me the honour to forward to me, that your Lordship had approached the French Government on the subject, and that M. Hanotaux, while not seeming to consider the idea a practical one, said that he would not raise any objection if Germany and Austria were willing to undertake the task.

The Emperor repeated what he had said to me at the Opera House, viz., that there could be no question of Germany. He had no interests in the Mediterranean, and he had not the means at his disposal for the pacification of Crete.

I then said that I was afraid that we were very far from an agreement. Six Powers had been proposed by different authorities. England and Russia by His Majesty; France and Italy by Herr von Bülow; Germany and Austria by M. Hanotaux. I added that I was not aware that any direct proposals had been made to any of these Powers, but that I could not conceive that any of them could be easily induced to undertake so thankless a task.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 170.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 62. Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 24, 1898.

IN the conversation which I had with the Emperor on the 19th instant, His Majesty alluded to the state of things in Austria-Hungary, which he characterized as deplorable. It was not only the internal state of affairs which caused him anxiety but he considered that the policy of the Austro-Hungarian Government with regard to the Balkans had been weak and vacillating. Formerly they had possessed, in the person of King Milan, an instrument on whom they could count, as a strong opponent of any attempt on the part of the Russians to gain influence in Servia. They had allowed him to abdicate when they might easily have prevented him from doing so by providing him with the money of which he was in need, and they had left the field open to the Russians who had not been slow to take advantage of their opportunity. His Majesty believed that at the present moment the influence of Russia at Belgrade was as strong as that of Austria. Nor would matters be improved by the return of King Milan as Commander-in-chief of the Servian army. How could anything in the shape of a reorganisation of the Servian army be hoped from the very man who gave them the example of running away during their war with Bulgaria.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 171.

Sir F. Lascelles to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 63. Very Confidential.)

My Lord, *Berlin, February* 24, 1898.

I HAD a long conversation with my Russian colleague on the 20th instant, and ascertained that the Emperor has held to him precisely similar language to that which His Majesty has held to me with regard to Crete. His Majesty had repeated to him his conversation with me at the Opera House, which had enabled him to refer to His Majesty's proposal as "une proposition carnavalesque." Count Osten Sacken said that the Emperor persisted in considering the candidature of Prince George of Greece as an idea put forward by Count Mouravieff, for personal reasons, but not suggested by the Emperor of Russia. His Excellency could assure me that His Majesty was completely mistaken on this point, and he could tell me very confidentially that the Grand Duke Constantine, who recently passed through Berlin, had been authorised by the Emperor of Russia to tell the Emperor William, if His Majesty should mention the subject, that he was strongly in favour ("y tient beaucoup") of the Prince's candidature.

The Emperor of Russia did not, as a rule, encourage the Grand Dukes to discuss political questions with foreign sovereigns, and the fact that His Majesty should have authorized the Grand Duke to hold such language, if an opportunity occurred, was a proof of the interest which His Majesty took in the question. The Grand Duke Constantine had not had an opportunity of speaking to the German Emperor on the subject as His Majesty had avoided all reference to the question, but Count Osten Sacken had informed Herr von Bülow of the nature of the language which the Grand Duke had been authorized to hold.

Count Osten Sacken alluded to the general condition of Europe, which he considered to be most serious and which caused him serious alarm. The state of affairs in Austria was deplorable, and it would seem that it was only the personality of the Emperor Francis Joseph which held the different portions of the Empire together. Events might happen any day in Austria which would precipitate a crisis, and would cause the greatest complications. In France also things seemed ripe for a crisis. We had seen in the Zola trial that it had become a treasonable crime to cry "Vive la République," and there could be little doubt that a serious Pretender to the Throne of France would have an excellent opportunity at the present moment. But a restoration either of the Monarchy or of the Empire, or even a Dictatorship would probably be immediately followed by a war of revenge. The Republic could acquiesce in the existing state of things, but a King, an Emperor, or a Dictator would be forced, in order to maintain

himself in power, to at least attempt the recovery of the lost provinces. Under these circumstances, Count Osten Sacken thought that the two Powers who represented order in Europe, viz., England and Russia, should draw closer together and come to a good understanding. He had always been in favour of such an understanding, and had frequently discussed it with the late Sir Robert Morier, with whom he was on terms of friendly intimacy. At one time Sir Robert had hopes of succeeding in his attempt to bring about a friendly understanding between the two countries, but towards the end of his life he had become discouraged as he found the mutual suspicion and want of confidence was too strong to be overcome.

I thanked Count Osten Sacken for speaking thus freely to me, and I told him that at one time, when I was Her Majesty's Ambassador at St. Petersburgh, I had strong hopes of seeing a better understanding between the two countries.

The sympathy expressed in England on the death of Alexander the Third had been much appreciated in Russia, and several of the leading statesmen had led me to hope that a better state of things might be arrived at. Unfortunately, the improvement did not last long, and the events which accompanied the close of the war between China and Japan had revived the sentiments of suspicion and distrust which prevailed when I left St. Petersburgh nearly two years and a-half ago. I could assure his Excellency that nothing would give me greater pleasure than to see a close understanding between the two countries, of the great advantage of which to both I had long been convinced.

I have, &c.

(Signed) FRANK C. LASCELLES.

No. 172.

Sir N. O'Conor to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 65.)

My Lord, *St. Petersburgh, February* 24, 1898.

IN the course of a short conversation yesterday, Count Lamsdorff referred to a suggestion which he understood the Emperor of Germany had privately made to the Russian Ambassador, Count Osten Sacken, to the effect that some two European Powers—possibly England and Russia—should be intrusted with the maintenance of order in Crete.

Count Lamsdorff said that he did not regard the Emperor's suggestion in the light of a definite proposal, and that officially they had received no information on the subject. Anyhow, he thought the suggestion futile. If it became necessary to send a large military force to Crete, it seemed to him that the three Powers who had agreed to guarantee the Greek Loan, and who were also the Guaranteeing Powers of Greek independence, might possibly consent to undertake the task, but he saw no reason for choosing two of these Powers or any two other Powers.

I have, &c.

(Signed) N. R. O'CONOR.

No. 173.

Sir E. Monson to the Marquess of Salisbury.—(*Received February* 28.)

(No. 25.)

(Telegraphic.) P. *Paris, February* 28, 1898, 6·50 P.M.

WITH reference to your Lordship's telegram No. 28 respecting the recent Turkish Circular, I have the honour to report that M. Hanotaux is glad to learn that the views held, as he understands, at Rome and Berlin, that there is no connection between the evacuation of Thessaly and the Cretan question, are shared by Her Majesty's Government.

His Excellency held language to the Turkish Ambassador in this sense.

The Italian Government has also, his Excellency believes, warned the Sultan that persistence in his present line of conduct will expose him to serious risk.

No. 174.

The Marquess of Salisbury to Sir E. Egerton.

(No. 17 A.)

Foreign Office, February 28, 1898.

Sir,

THE Greek Chargé d'Affaires called to-day and showed two telegrams which he had received from his Government.

The first stated that the Servian Representative at Athens had informed the Greek Government that the Servian Government entertained no objection to the candidature of Prince George of Greece for the Governorship of Crete.

The second stated that the Greek Agent at Sophia reported that Prince Ferdinand and M. Stoïloff had both inquired with sympathy how the proposal of Prince George for this office was prospering, and that the latter had observed that it seemed the only means of arriving at a settlement of the question.

I am, &c.

(Signed) SALISBURY.

No. 175.

Foreign Office to Treasury.

(Confidential.)

Foreign Office, February 28, 1898.

Sir,

WITH reference to the letter from this Office of the 22nd instant, I am directed by the Marquess of Salisbury to transmit to you, to be laid before the Lords Commissioners of the Treasury, a copy of a telegram from Her Majesty's Minister at Athens in regard to the communication to be made to the Greek Government as to the guarantee of the Indemnity Loan by England, France, and Russia.*

Lord Salisbury proposes, if their Lordships concur, to authorize Sir E. Egerton to agree to the proposed communication *ad referendum*, provided that it keeps within the limits mentioned in the telegram to him No. 9 of the 16th February, of which a copy is inclosed.†

I am, &c.

(Signed) T. H. SANDERSON.

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* No. 162.

† No. 86.

Further Correspondence Respecting the Affairs of South-Eastern Europe. Feb. 1898. TS Selected Foreign Office Files on Africa. The National Archives (Kew, United Kingdom). Nineteenth Century Collections Online. Web. 2 May 2016.

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